- **NEWS/A2** Oil firms raise prices for 1st time after VAT increase
- **WORLD/A10** Israel PM Sharon out of danger after another operation
- **ENTERTAINMENT/A2-1** ABC 5 gets franchise for world-famous talent search 'American Idol'
- **SUNDAY COMICS**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, February 12, 2006 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 66 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Love me, love earth; think green on Valentine's Day

By Julie M. Aurelio

THINK GREEN ON Valentine's Day.

Instead of giving Belgian chocolates and champagne why not give *tablea* (blocks of cocoa powder) and virgin coconut oil?

LOVE ME/ A6

ANO BA YAN, WALANG CHOCOLATES AT ROSES?
'COZ I CARE!

JOAN BONDOC

NOT ONLY FOR KIDS: Gina Lopez (3rd from left), managing director of Bantay Bata, is also proponent/convenor of Bantay Kalikasan, an environmental-watch group that monitors pollution with La Mesa Dam for its flagship project. With Lopez at the groundbreaking of La Mesa Ecomuseum on Thursday are HSBC's Warren Manning, Loren Legarda and Rep. Maryann Susano.

No Bantay Bata funds used for Ultra stampede victims

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Norman Bordadora

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORP. USED THE staff but not the money of its charity arm Bantay Bata in fulfilling its obligations to the victims of the Feb. 4 stampede, the managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation said yesterday.

"I would like to emphatically state that the ABS-CBN Bantay Bata funds were not used and will never be used for the victims and their families..." said Gina Lopez, a member of the family that controls the giant broadcast network.

Lopez said that "when the disaster happened," all the social workers of Bantay Bata were deployed—from the hotline, the Children's Village and the Family Strengthening Program—"to take care of the victims and those affected."

She said that daily, the social workers visited the hospitals and funeral parlors "just to make sure that the victims' needs [were] taken care of."

Lopez issued the statement in reaction to an

NO BANTAY/ A6

Palace blinks on EO 464

GMA lets Cabinet members attend Senate budget hearing

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Armand N. Nocum

IN A MOVE ONE SENIOR adviser called a softening of her hardline position, President Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed to allow Cabinet and other government officials to appear at Monday's Senate hearings on the budget.

Malacañang announced the decision yesterday after a bloc of 17 senators, concerned about an open confrontation between the Palace and the Senate, asked the Supreme Court to stop Ms Arroyo from enforcing Executive Order 464 barring government officials from appearing at Senate or House hearings without her clearance.

But while Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez indicated that the presidential decision meant that Ms Arroyo was easing up on her position, another top Malacañang official, Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio, said the move in no way altered the Palace stance on the disputed EO.

"Cabinet and other concerned government officials will attend the budget hearing on Monday but this does not alter the government's position on EO 464," Claudio said in a text message. "Such attendance is within the context of, and consistent with the judicious application of EO 464."

Gonzalez, speaking on his regular "Hustisiya Para Sa Lahat (Justice for All)" program on radio dwIZ, looked at Ms Arroyo's decision authorizing him to appear at the Senate a different way.

"The President has relented on her hardline position on this because what we are talking about here is the budget," Gonzalez said.

PALACE/ A8

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

WHAT PRICE SAYING IT WITH ROSES ON VALENTINE'S DAY?
In Manila, roses from Holland can go for as high as P3,800 a dozen; even the locally grown don't go for anything less than P1,500. At the Parungao Alley Extension Flower Shop in Baguio City, roses are a steal at P30 to P50 a dozen as they are practically harvested from the city's backyard, Barangay Bahong in La Trinidad, Benguet.

Jobless Zuce finds peace, funds in art

By Fe Zamora

AS A POLL "OPERATOR," MICHELANgelo Zuce earned hundreds of thousands of pesos selling election results to the highest bidder.

But early last week, the man who claimed to have helped manipulate the May 2004 election in President Macapagal-Arroyo's favor earned the princely sum of P15,000 from his "highest bidder."

The object for sale? An abstract painting that he did to fight boredom at a safe house.

The drop in his market value did not seem to faze Zuce. "This is not just about money. Painting has given me peace, relaxation and refuge from boredom," he

JOBLESS/ A8

Pasig drug bust also netted baby, pregnant girl, 12

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A FOUR-MONTH OLD BABY. A 12-year old pregnant girl. Teenagers grown street-wise to the illicit drug trade.

They were among the 59 minors caught with 260 adults during a police raid of a compound of about 40 shanties serving as "one-stop shop *shabu* restaurants" in Barangay Sto. Tomas in Pasig City Friday.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, 210 urine samples had been taken from 319 suspects. A total of 70 samples have been processed, yielding various results—some were positive for shabu, marijuana, or both, while some were negative.

The "*shabu* resto" within that 600 sq. m. compound was located just half a kilometer away from the Pasig City Hall and the Eastern Police District headquarters. Here, drug users freely ordered grams of *shabu*, rented paraphernalia and used stalls for their drug sessions.

The infant was brought by a mother into one of the stalls where she was arrested, according to the head of the Philippine National Police task force that led the raid.

"The mother was caught in possession of *shabu*. We turned over the baby to the DSWD-Pasig City (Department of Social Welfare and Development) and they turned it over to the grandmother," said Director Marcelo Ele, head of the Anti-Illegal Drugs and Special Operations Task Force.

He said the pregnant 12-year-old girl was turned over to her mother. "She was very pregnant and she was so small. She was only 12," Ele said.

Aside from the two, the 57 minors ar

PASIG/ A20

UP scientists dispute Gore's doomsday scenario

By Volt Contreras

NOT EVERYONE WAS PLEASED WITH the way former US Vice President Al Gore was given "celebrity" treatment when he spoke as a crusader against global warming in Manila.

Two scientists from the University of the Philippines yesterday lamented how Gore's "doomsday" pronouncements apparently received more attention than the more detailed analyses and solutions offered by Filipino environmental experts.

They also challenged and branded as "exaggerated" what the former US leader said about Manila Bay "overflowing" because of the greenhouse effect.

Too much use of ground water by typical households and establishments—not global warming—was the bigger reason the metropolis is sinking, said Dr. Carlo Arcilla and Dr. Fernando Siringan of the UP College of Science in Diliman, Quezon City.

"There we go again. A foreign celebrity coming over for a quick visit, giving a talk, and we are all in adulation, taking everything said as gospel truth," Arcilla said in a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER.

Arcilla is an associate professor of geosciences and coordinator of the college's Science and Society Program. He has a Ph D in geosciences and geotechnical en-

UP SCIENTISTS/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Central and Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao. Bicol region will have mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/04/07/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Second FrontPage

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Political crisis, graft worry business execs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL BUSINESSMEN ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT the country's economic prospects this year but are worried about the lingering political crisis and corruption in government, a recent survey by the Makati Business Club showed.

MBC's Executive Outlook Survey, conducted between Jan. 3 and 31, also showed that businessmen were less satisfied with the performance of a large number of government agencies in the second half of 2005.

Two administration lawmakers expressed gratification over the results of the survey.

In a joint statement, Lakas-CMD Representatives Edwin Uy of Isabela, chair of the House committee on bases conversion and development, and Eduardo Zialcita of Parañaque, chair of the committee on housing and urban development, said the MBC members' optimism was proof that economic stakeholders continued to be upbeat about the country's prospects under President Macapagal-Arroyo's leadership, despite the noise generated by her opponents.

The MBC surveys its members in January and July of each year. The January survey involved 94 respondents or 12.8 percent of MBC's members.

According to the survey, 47.9 percent of business executives believed that the country's economy in 2006 would grow faster than the 5.1 percent growth posted in 2005.

Also, 42.6 percent said they expected inflation to be stable at about 7.5 percent while 52.1 percent said interest rates would likely remain at the 2005 level of 6.14 percent for the bellwether 91-day Treasury bill.

However, two-fifths said the peso would slightly weaken against the US dollar this year from its end-2005 close of P53.09, although the local currency is currently performing strongly against the dollar.

Businessmen were confident about investments and exports this year, with 61.7 percent seeing higher investments, and half predicting exports would grow. Up to 71.3 percent expect increased imports.

Businessmen, however, continued to be concerned with corruption in government as well as the legitimacy and credibility of President Arroyo.

Corruption, they said, is the country's most important challenge in the near-term while the President's legitimacy and credibility remained a key unresolved issue.

Other important issues raised by businessmen were politics and peace and order, according to the survey.

Among the positive developments identified by the businessmen were: the appreciation of the peso, passage of the new, value added tax law, hefty inflows of remittances from abroad, and the narrower fiscal deficit.

On Charter change, MBC members remained split on whether the Constitution should be amended with 52.1 percent in favor, 30.8 percent against and 17.1 percent undecided.

The survey results indicate that many executives do not see Cha-cha as the solution to the issues and challenges facing the country, MBC said.

On the performance of government agencies, the businessmen gave negative ratings to more agencies this year—23 out of the 37 agencies and institutions that were rated. The worst ratings were those of the House of Representatives (-86.2 percent), Commission on Elections (-86.2 percent) and the Senate (-81.9 percent). The Office of the President got a net rating of -40.4 percent.

The most improved agencies included the Supreme Court, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the departments of tourism, labor, justice and public works although the latter two still got negative ratings.

On corporate concerns, the MBC poll showed that more businessmen saw improved performances this year, with 77.7 percent expecting higher revenues and 62.8 percent expecting moderate profits.

Half of those surveyed said they would make additional investments this year but 58.5 said they would keep their work forces at their current sizes.

MBC said the key change in the corporate outlook was in the inventory positions as 68.2 percent of manufacturing capacity was used and the stocks of finished goods went up to three months at end-2005 while inventories of raw materials dropped to the normal level of 2.1 months.

After credit rating boost, GMA sees peso breaking 50:$1

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUOYED BY THE SPECTACULAR climb of the peso and a "thumbs up" for her fiscal-reform program from a leading international credit-rating agency, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday boldly predicted that the peso would soon pierce the 50-to-the-dollar mark.

"They say the natural price of the peso is actually below 50. That is what our exporters should [base] their plans on," the President said at a television forum where she extolled the recent gains of the peso and Standard and Poor's upgrade of the country's economic outlook.

The peso jumped to its highest in three-and-a-half years at 51.48 to the dollar last Friday as investors reacted positively to the S&P upgrade, apparently brushing aside rival Moody's Investor Services' decision to maintain its "negative" outlook on the Philippines despite the much-diminished political noise and the implementation of the expanded value-added tax.

The last time the peso traded below 50 was on May 30, 2002, when it registered 49.915 to the dollar.

The President made her bold prediction after Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee, who was sitting on the panel, asked her for guidance in forecasting the peso's movement.

"We [the business community] are happy although exporters are getting hit by the peso appreciation. We know the peso will strengthen further but it will be a big help if we can only predict how much higher the peso will go," said Dee.

Ms Arroyo said the export sector should not despair over the peso's appreciation—a stronger peso makes Philippine goods more expensive abroad—because their competitiveness can be maintained by other means, such as keeping stable other cost factors like transportation and labor.

She noted that Philippine exports, led by electronic goods, rose 17 percent in December 2005 despite the peso's increase.

A Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas official said the President had based her "natural price of the peso" statement on the real effective exchange rate, that is, the rate at which a country's currency should be trading when compared with the currencies and prevailing inflation rates of neighboring countries.

The President said that "with stronger confidence brought about by our fiscal reforms, more investments will come to give new jobs to thousands of our countrymen." *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

Health workers score medical care for aliens, not Pinoys

By Christian V. Esguerra

A GROUP OF MEDICAL WORKERS has assailed the administration's "medical tourism" program, saying offering world-class medical treatment to moneyed patients from abroad was "selling to foreigners what the government has virtually denied its own people."

Dr. Gene Nisperos, secretary general of the militant Health Alliance for Democracy, said the government was peddling medical tourism at a time when 50 percent of Filipinos were dying without receiving any form of health care.

"Why is the Arroyo government pushing for the commercial sale of our health services when it cannot even provide for the health needs of the vast majority of Filipinos?" asked Nisperos.

Nisperos' group claims a membership of around 3,000 doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

Nigeros said that the government-run Philippine Heart Center had as many as 4,000 patients awaiting heart surgery in 2004 while the National Kidney and Transplant Institute had more than 180 patients lined up for kidney transplants.

"Many of these patients may die even before they get the procedures they need. What happens to these patients when PHC and NKTI open their doors to foreign patients?" Nisperos said.

He said that instead of spending more to treat charity cases to cut the backlog, the government was more concerned about improving health facilities and services primarily to lure foreign patients.

"The so-called development under medical tourism will significantly decrease services available to charity patients, even as it opens up services to paying patients and foreigners," Nisperos said.

The medical tourism program's most attractive selling point is a cheap price tag and competent doctors that come with services ranging from elective or cosmetic surgeries to life-threatening procedures like a heart bypass.

The group said the program could be directly beneficial to poor Filipino patients if it was directed at making procedures like kidney transplant and open-heart surgery affordable.

Nisperos noted that a charity patient still needed to raise P500,000 for a kidney operation even if the organ was donated.

Nigeros also said he was appalled by the Department of Health's plan to construct spas and health and wellness centers in government hospitals to further attract foreign patients.

"All of a sudden, the government has funds to pipeline such construction when it has not even added to the capital outlay of its 11 public hospitals over the last 5 years," he said.

Oil firms hike prices

FOR THE FIRST time since the implementation of the 12-percent value-added tax this month, oil firms raised the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter and of liquefied petroleum gas by 56 centavos a kilogram.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. implemented the increase at 12:01 a.m. yesterday and Caltex Philippines Inc. at 6 a.m.

To follow their lead today are Petron Corp., Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Eastern Petroleum Corp.

Flying V and Seaoil Petroleum Corp. will raise fuel prices by the same level at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

The price hike brings premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P37.82 and P39.35 a liter, diesel to between P31.35 and P33.50 a liter, and kerosene to between P33.90 and P35.22 a liter.

LPG will now sell for between P502.37 and P546.16 per 11-kg cylinder.

The oil firms cited high international prices and competitive market forces as reasons for the adjustments.

Since the start of the year, oil firms have hiked gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices three times by a total of P1.50 a liter. LPG prices have risen three times as well by P1.61 centavos per kilogram or P17.71 per 11-kilogram cylinder. *Abigail L. Ho*

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The National Housing Authority is *seeking solicitation for accreditation of private realty appraisers* to act as appraisal-service provider for its real properties to be offered for disposition as well as properties being identified for acquisition for housing development. The following are basic eligibility documents to be submitted for evaluation:

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2. Valid and current Mayor's permit/Municipal license;
3. Certification as member of good standing in IPREA, PARA or Philippine Valuers;
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number;
5. Statement of the prospective appraiser for accreditation that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from participating in bidding by the GOP or any of its agencies, offices, corporation or LGUs;
6. Certification of the Board Secretary or authorization letter of the designated representative;
7. Business and organizational profiles, including information about the number of licensed personnel and trained field staff and their qualifications as well as on-going and completed government and private contracts disclosing the following:
   a. Name and location of the contract;
   b. Date of award and amount of the contract;
   c. Contract duration;
   d. Certificate of satisfactory completion issued by the client, in the case of a completed contract.
8. For new applicants, Certification from two (2) clients in the public sector and one (1) from the private sector attesting the company's reliability and competence in the appraisal of real estate properties;
9. Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediate preceding calendar year.

The *deadline* for the submission of the Letter of Intent and the eligibility documents shall be on *20 February 2006 at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon.*

For more information, please visit the *Commercial and Industrial Estates Department*, Second Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City or call Ms. Eutemia Ontina/Corazon Abello at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4561 local 262 & 263.

(Sgd.) FEDERICO A. LAXA
General Manager

(PDI - Feb 12, 2006)

8M Pinoys hepa-B carriers, says solon

By Philip C. Tubeza

EIGHT MILLION FILIPINO ARE carriers of the hepatitis-B virus and are unknowingly spreading the liver ailment "at an alarming rate," Sen. Pia Cayetano said yesterday, citing a World Health Organization report.

Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on health and demography, said the WHO report showed that about six out of 10 Filipinos have at one point been exposed to the hepatitis-B virus, while a tenth of the country's population of 80 million have been contaminated by it.

"This means that around eight million Filipinos are active carriers who are unwittingly spreading the virus to other people," Cayetano said.

To remedy the situation, the Senate has passed a bill sponsored by Cayetano that provides for mandatory hepatitis-B immunization for infants within 24 hours of birth, at government expense if the child is born in a state hospital. The bill also declares February of every year as "National Liver and Hepatitis-B Awareness Month."

"The liver is one of the most vital organs of the body but it happens to be among the most 'neglected' among us Filipinos," she said. "Liver ailments have become a serious public health concern, particularly hepatitis-B, which is spreading at an alarming rate, although most of us are unaware or choose not to take precautions."

Cayetano noted that while the virus infects people mostly during infancy and childhood, it manifests itself only when the victims reach adulthood, "and often with grim results."

The virus has been known to lead to liver cancer and cirrhosis. Studies have shown, for instance, that around 70 percent of liver cancer cases originated from hepatitis-B, she said.

UP prof named to UN advisory body

By Gerry Lirio

HERNANDEZ

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES professor Carolina Hernandez has been invited to sit in the body advising the United Nations secretary general on global security and disarmament.

Hernandez, the political science professor who helped investigate the December 1989 coup and the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, was appointed for a renewable two-year term, according to a letter sent Jan. 20 by UN Secretary General Kofi Anan.

The 64-year-old Hernandez said she has accepted the appointment.

"I am both flattered and intimidated by the appointment," she said.

Hernandez will fly to New York to formally accept the appointment and be introduced at the opening of a three-day session of the Advisory Board for Disarmament Matters this month.

As a member of the 22-person advisory board, Hernandez will advise Anan on arms limitation and disarmament and serve the board of trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

The board meets twice a year for a three-day session each in New York and Geneva.

Hernandez is joining the UN body in a private capacity, not as a government representative. It is a non-paying job, but the UN takes care of transport and hotel expenses.

Anan's letter did not say how Hernandez came to be chosen. It said the advisory board was composed of "high-level personalities with knowledge and expertise in the field of disarmament and international security, drawn from governmental and non-governmental circles around the world."

Hernandez graduated cum laude with a degree in foreign relations from the UP.

She studied political philosophy at the Duke University in North Carolina and also pursued advanced studies at the State University of New York in Buffalo.

At Suny she wrote a paper on civil-military relations in the Philippines and its implications for the country's political development, which found its way into the hands of martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. who was then living in exile in Boston. Aquino flew to San Francisco, California, in April 1983 to meet Hernandez.

Aquino cited Hernandez's paper when he reported on the atrocities of the Marcos regime before the US congressional committee headed by Democratic Rep. Stephen Solarz.

Teen charges Danao City parish priest with rape

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY – A PARISH PRIEST in Danao City has been accused of raping a teenage girl thrice in the last year, including on Christmas Day, in the church convent.

Fr. Jose Joey Belciña, in his 30s and parish priest at St. Francis of Assisi in Barangay Maslog, Danao City, was accused of rape in the Danao City Prosecutor's Office on Friday.

The complainant, 18 and a working student being sent to school by the priest, filed the case with the help of the Cebu-based Legal Alternatives for Women Inc. (Law-Inc.) Center.

The girl, a hotel and restaurant management student at a Danao City college and a resident of the city, claimed she was first molested by the priest on July 22, 2005, when she was 17 years old. She said this was repeated on Dec. 25, 2005 and on Jan. 28 this year.

Belciña, in a television interview Friday, denied raping the girl, saying he was surprised by the allegation.

He refused to comment further when the INQUIRER reached him at the convent yesterday. A man claiming to be an assistant at the church, Dennis Puebla, said the priest was in his hometown of Dalaguete attending the town fiesta.

Puebla said the girl did not stay at the convent but it was Belciña who paid for her studies.

The girl, in her affidavit, said that since Belciña was paying her school fees, they agreed that she would help with chores at the convent and do errands in her free time or after classes.

She said that on July 22, 2005, she entered Belciña's room to clean it and found the priest inside.

She said Belciña began molesting her and when she protested, he pointed to a gun by his bed's headboard.

The girl said that after raping her, he warned her not to tell anyone. She said that after the incident, she stopped going to the convent and would get her school allowance through the priest's brother, who also lived at the convent, or from a friend of the priest's.

On Christmas Day, however, she said she went to the convent after the cook asked her to help with the Christmas party.

She said she went to the dining area where Belciña had just finished eating. The priest, she said, told her to go to his room to wash his underwear.

She said the priest joined her there, told her to give him a massage and then molested her again.

She said the third time she was abused occurred when she went to the convent on Jan. 28 at around 7 p.m. to ask Belciña for money for a school project.

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SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS
FIRST SEMESTER SCHOOL YEAR 2006 – 2007

DATES	DAY	TIME	VENUE
February 18, 2006	Saturday	8 - 12	Guidance Testing Center
March 04, 2006	Saturday	8 - 12 & 1 - 5	ST Bldg. Rms. 124, 125, 126
March 11, 2006	Saturday	8 - 12 & 1 - 5	ST Bldg. Rms. 124, 125, 126
March 18, 2006	Saturday	8 - 12 & 1 - 5	ST Bldg. Rms. 124, 125, 126
March 25, 2006	Saturday	8 - 12 & 1 - 5	ST Bldg. Rms. 124, 125, 126
April 03 up	everyday	8 - 12 & 1 - 5	ST Bldg. Rms. 124, 125, 126
to May 31, 2006	Monday Saturday	8 - 12 & 1 - 5	ST Bldg. Rms. 124, 125, 126

Note: Enrollment starts on April 03, 2006

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PROMO PERIOD: Feb. 7 to March 8, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0827, S. 2006.

Boracay needs new dev't plan–study

By Jerome Aning

THE RESORT ISLAND OF BORACAY WILL realize its full potential as a "world class" tourism destination to rival premier locations like Bali or Phuket once an updated development plan is put in place, according to a study commissioned by the International Finance Corp.

The study was made by a team of Philippine and German consultants contracted by the IFC, the investment arm of the World Bank, to conduct an analysis of investment opportunities on Boracay.

The study suggested that a stronger strategic tourism marketing and promotion effort and crucial changes in tourism infrastructure would make Boracay a better "world class" island resort.

"There is an urgent need to update the 1990 Boracay Master Development Plan and to redesign the marketing strategy to make the island more visible and accessible to tourists from around the world," said IFC country manager Vipul,Bhagat.

The study was funded by the German state of Bavaria. The team included local and international specialists from a wide range of disciplines, from sustainable tourism to wastewater management.

Winfried Werner of Obermeyer, an urban and regional planning expert, headed the team's German members while the Filipinos were led by former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor, president of the Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation.

The study said the development plan must be improved to address the critical issues facing Boracay, and tourism-related investments must be packaged accordingly.

These issues include migration, zoning, lack of health facilities and medical personnel, visual and noise pollution, solid waste water management, energy supply, and intra-island and inter-island transport.

Considered critical to any development plan for Boracay is the improvement of Caticlan town as a major commercial and business district to ease the strain on Boracay's resources from the influx of migrants and tourists.

USAID

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential furniture/equipment, appliances, and computer equipment, on an **"AS IS-WHERE IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected on February 13 & 14, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Last day of sale will be on Wednesday, **February 15, 2006 from 8:30 to 2:00 p.m.** at USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd. (formerly Tramo St.), Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on Friday, February 17, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-96-84, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

(PDI–Feb. 4,5, 11 & 12, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project	Supply of Services thru outsourcing of the following positions: 1) Sixteen (16) General Clerks, Ten (10) Data Encoders and One (1) Messenger 2) Thirty-Seven (37) Plant Workers
Approved Budget for the Contract	1) P1,460,000.00 or P10,000.00/month 2) P2,200,000.00 or P9,909.91/month
Contract Duration	Per BSP Terms of Reference

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 10-23, 2006 (up to 2PM only)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	February 24, 2006 9:30AM
3. Opening of Bids	March 14, 2006 2:00PM
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods
5. Post-qualification	) allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A
6. Notice of Award	) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount equivalent to .05% of the ABC for each item or a minimum of P500.00 but not to exceed P50,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 12, 2006)

SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
a subsidiary of National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC), a corporate subsidiary of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, located at Filomena Building, 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City is inviting interested parties to prequalify and participate in the forthcoming public bidding for the outsourcing of the screening/hiring of applicants/candidates for its various key positions.

The checklist for prequalification documents may be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the 4th Floor, Filomena Bldg., during office hours from February 13-15, 2006. Prospective bidders shall be advised in due course of the results of their applications for the pre-qualification.

Only bidders who are prequalified can get copies of the Terms of Reference and attend the pre-bidding conference on February 17, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. 5th Floor, Board Room.

The SHFC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, disqualify any bidder or to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Corporation or annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of the bid without incurring any liability to the affected bidders or stating the grounds for SHFC action.

For further information/clarification on the above matters, please contact the Administration Department at telephone numbers 893-1501 local 290 and 893-0491.

(Sgd.) ATTY. FERMIN T. ARZAGA
SHFC President

(PDI–Feb. 12, 2006)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II)** is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

1. **KWH Meters and Distribution Transformers for the Single Digit System Loss Reduction Program of the cooperative.**

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
   - a. Company Profile
   - b. Business Registration
   - c. Business Permit
   - d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   - e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   - f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements - February 20, 2006.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI - Feb. 5 & 12, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

INVITATION TO BID

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE for the Welfareville Property, through the Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfare property located in Mandaluyong City known as **Parcel 1-East Side** with an approximate area of 718,313 square meters with a value of Php19,000 per square meter as the minimum bid price

Interested parties may submit their Letters of Intent not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon March 24, 2006 and address the same for the attention of:

The Chairperson
Welfareville Development Project
Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC)
c/o Asset Management Group, Ground Floor
DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills
Diliman, Quezon City

The Bid Documents/Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said **Parcel 1** shall be ready for distribution on February 20, 2006 at a non-refundable cost of Php 5,000.00 for each Bid Documents/TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager/s check. The Bid Documents/TOR shall be obtained from Director M. Nicomedes J. Castillo, Asset Management Group at the abovementioned address, telefax no. 931-9145 or tel. no. 931-8101 loc. 142

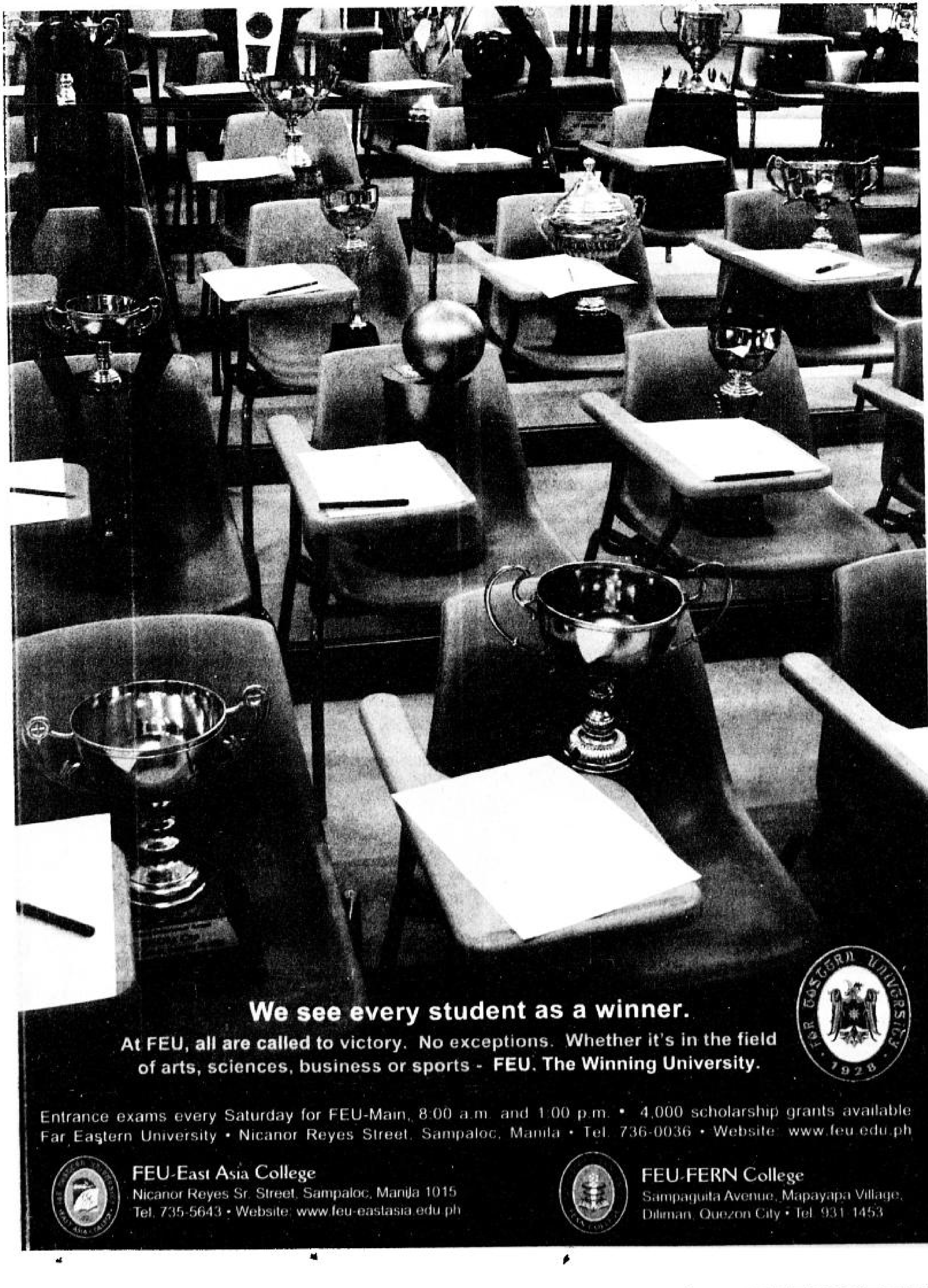
A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. on March 24, 2006, at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letters of Intent and secured the Bid Documents/TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference

Deadline for submission of bids is 2:00 p.m. on May 19, 2006. Immediately thereafter, or at 2:01 p.m., the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City.

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or required formality therein assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation, and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) ATTY. ERWIN L. TIAMSON
DENR
Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI - Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites A & E Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Architectural and Engineering Design Consultancy Services for the proposed BSP Branch Building in Zamboanga City. Approved Budget for the Contract is P6,080,000.00

The scope of work includes among others the preparation of plans, specifications and detailed estimates to include architectural, electrical, mechanical, structural, electronics and communications, plumbing/sanitary and landscaping works as specified in the Terms of Reference (TOR)

The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first and advertisement/posting of this invitation

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) A & E design consultancy services, at least three (3) completed new construction projects of similar nature like office buildings, banks, exchanges and financial institutions of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP projects and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for at least two (2) of the required three (3) projects.

3.0 The principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect with at least twenty (20) years experience in Architectural design and coordinating team efforts in A & E design.

4.0 The key personnel should be Registered Architect/s and Engineer/s with at least fifteen (15) years design experience

5.0 In the case of Foreign Consultants, the firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by Filipino citizens. Foreign consultants must be registered with SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines

6.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint agreement. The joint venture must have rendered A & E design consultancy services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

The quality-cost based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement

Firms which currently have two (2) or more active consultancy contracts with the BSP are not eligible to bid for this project.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat for a non-refundable fee of P500.00, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 1 30 P.M. on March 7, 2006

The provisions of Republic Act No 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof , to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or less that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – Feb 12 & 26, 2006)

Don't blame PAL pullout on me, says ex-Laoag exec

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—FORMER MAYOR ROGER FARIÑAS is outraged the impending suspension of Philippine Airlines' Manila-Laoag-Manila flights was being blamed on him. He said the company should review its procedures and adopt corrective measures in handling passenger reservations.

Fariñas took exception to an INQUIRER report yesterday that Lucio Tan, PAL owner and president, was so infuriated over Fariñas alleged bullying of an airline employee that he ordered the suspension of flights to and from Laoag starting Feb. 13.

"Why am I being blamed for the cancellation? This (confrontation) was a trivial matter that was blown out of proportion," Fariñas told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The former three-term Laoag mayor denied berating or threatening to pull a gun on a PAL customer relations officer (CRO) while he was at the Laoag International Airport on Feb. 3 to see off his wife, Asuncion, and her secretary who were bound for Manila.

Fariñas said he would ask for a meeting with PAL officials on Monday to set the record straight.

Because of the incident, other PAL employees reportedly refused to work at the Laoag airport, causing the airline to issue a statement that it would suspend flights to and from Laoag "due to lack of staff willing to serve" at the airport.

"PAL should explain the real reason for its pullout. It should not lay the blame on me, instead, it must address its chaotic handling of the passengers' seat reservations," Fariñas said.

Recounting his version of the incident, Fariñas said his wife and her secretary were waiting at the pre-departure area when they were told that they could not get on the flight as their boarding passes bore different names.

The CRO (a man, according to Fariñas, and not a woman as the report said) advised Mrs. Fariñas to buy another ticket and request a refund from her travel agency.

It was at this point that Fariñas said he stepped in and asked why they were being made to buy new tickets.

Fariñas said he asked for Ruben Ablan, the airport's ground handler, to clear up the matter as the CRO claimed it was Ablan who had issued instructions that no passengers would be allowed to board if there were discrepancies in their passes.

"I asked Ablan why we needed to buy another ticket and to ask for a refund when the tickets we bought were under the name of Fariñas anyway. Why not change the names instead?" he said.

Ablan told him he had spoken to the CRO and everything had been ironed out and that his wife could take the flight, Fariñas said.

According to him, Ablan sounded apologetic. "Ignore the incident, mayor. He is a Tagalog, he does not recognize you," Fariñas quoted Ablan as telling him.

Anticlotting drug recalled

PARIS – SANOFI-AVENTIS ANNOUNCED TOday that as a precautionary measure, it was recalling 30 batches of the anticoagulant *enoxaparin* (brand names Lovenox and Clexane) worldwide.

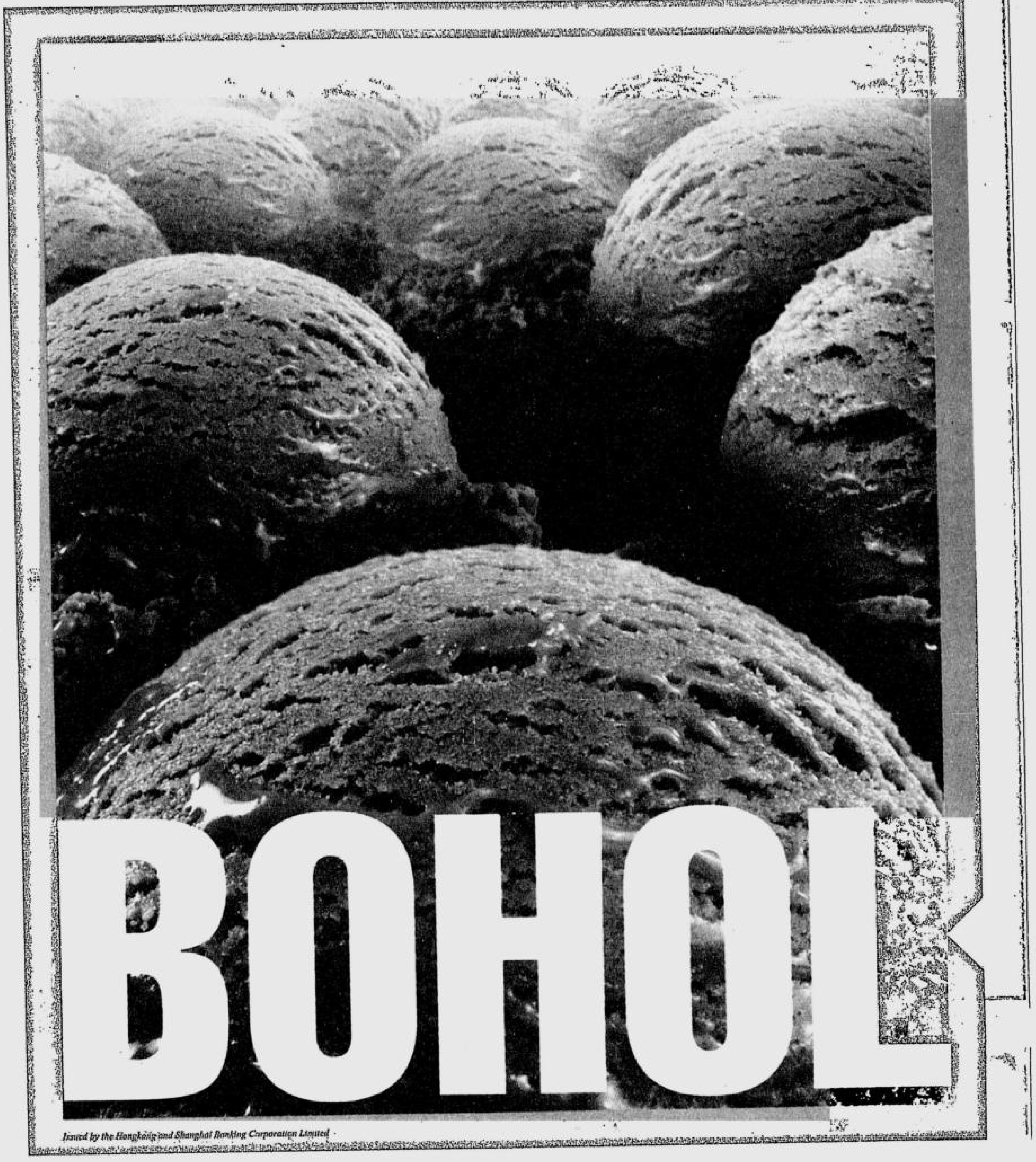
In the Philippines, only two batches among the 30 batches are affected by the recall.

The recall concerns batches filled at a single facility and delivered to Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

It is important to note that the *enoxaparin* active ingredient is not the subject of the recall, Sanofi-aventis said.

The drug firm said it does not anticipate an impact on the availability of *enoxaparin*, which is an anticoagulant of the "low molecular weight heparin" class. It is used to inhibit clot formation in venous or arterial vessels and to avoid potential pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction or death of cardiovascular origin.

For more information, Sanofi-aventis in the Philippines may be reached at 1-800-1888-1550 or 02893-1550.



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MAWAWALA DIN ANG MGA ISYUNG ITO.

Victims, witnesses give stories but won't sue

'Some of those in line were electrocuted; the gate was grounded, a live wire was exposed'

By Tina G. Santos

A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE responded to the call of the National Bureau of Investigation for eyewitness accounts of the stampede that marked the first anniversary of ABS-CBN's "Wowowee."

But most of them said they did not intend to file any complaint against the broadcast network or the organizers of the daily game show.

Carmen Balawang, a fish vendor of Bayanan, Muntinlupa, who braved the crowd and survived the stampede at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City, said she had decided to narrate what actually happened.

"Some people are giving false information and are only taking advantage of the situation to claim money," Balawang, 41, told reporters in Filipino.

Balawang was reported missing after the stampede, prompting her relatives to have her picture published in the newspapers.

"They thought I was among those who died," she said.

According to Balawang, she saw many of those who were standing next to her die, crushed by the frenzied crowd.

"I really prayed hard to be saved because I wanted to live for my daughter and my husband, who just got out of hospital," she said.

Promise to mother

Balawang said she had decided to line up for the game show because she wanted to help her mother, who lives in the province.

"I promised her that if I won, I would replace the roof of her house with galvanized steel. The roof is made only of old canvas," she said while showing reporters her raffle ticket (No. 08733).

Balawang also claimed to have seen someone die of electrocution while trying to clamber atop a waiting shed.

"She accidentally got hold of a live wire and fell," Balawang said, adding:

"Some people were even ignoring the dead and still trying to enter the arena. It was such an ugly sight."

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption urged the NBI to look into the possibility that some of those who perished might have been electrocuted before being trampled to death.

This came following witnesses' accounts claiming that the main gate was grounded.

Neil Katubig, one of the survivors presented by the anti-crime group to the media yesterday afternoon, said he saw an orange wire spark near the gate on Capt. Henry Javier Street on Feb. 3, the day before the stampede.

"It was about 4 p.m. on Friday when I saw it spark," Katubig said, adding that he was at the gate when it happened.

He also said that on the night of Feb. 3, some of those in the queue were electrocuted because the wire was left unattended by the security guards.

"They did not change or even cover the wire with electric tape," he said.

Another survivor, Imelda Aguilar, claimed that she herself felt that the gate was grounded when she accidentally brushed against it with her upper right arm.

Aguilar, 55, also claimed to have seen two elderly balikbayan women shaking when they were shoved against the gate during the stampede.

She said she asked the women, whom she had befriended, what the matter was.

"They told me they were dizzy, and then they became unconscious when people started to push and shove," Aguilar said.

'Deception'

VACC chair Dante Jimenez said he had asked NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring to look into the matter.

Jimenez said that if true, such accounts would show not only laxity in security but also the "deception" inflicted on the people.

"We have to find out whether [the gate was grounded] on purpose so that people would not be able to [scale it]," he told the INQUIRER by phone.

Jimenez also said he would request the exhumation of the women's bodies for investigation. The bodies were said to have been buried in Dumaguete City.

No complaint

Balawang, who claimed to be an avid fan of "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame, said no one should blame the network or the event organizers because the crowd had become so unruly prior to the stampede.

She said she had no plans of filing a complaint against ABS-CBN.

"I have only myself to blame. And those other people who went there should not blame anybody," Balawang said.

"Many climbed on the mesh fence and on the roof of a waiting shed. They were really hardheaded. They would not listen to the security personnel," she said.

Most of the other witnesses said just meeting Revillame in person would make them feel better.

"*Idol namin siya; wala siyang kasalanan* (He's our idol; he has no fault in this)," they said.

Ferdinand Lavin, executive officer of the NBI National Capital Region, said the bureau welcomed the witnesses' statements.

"We cannot compel them to file complaints. That's their prerogative. But the government can file it on their behalf," Lavin told reporters.

"As of now, they may be preoccupied with a lot of things, like undergoing treatment or [attending to the] burial of their kin. But later, they may realize that they should [file a complaint] to be settled," he added.

With a report from Jocelyn R. Uy

Love me . . .

From page A1

"Love me, love the earth," is the passionate cry of greenies this month.

The Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines has asked the public to be responsible consumers and consider earth-friendly ways of marking Valentine's Day.

Ecowaste is a network of community, church, school, environmental and health NGOs dealing with waste and pollution issues.

Many purchases made during Valentine's Day generate a substantial amount of trash, Ecowaste chair Eileen Sison told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"Consider the planet when buying Valentine gifts. Honor Mother Earth by buying products that will not put our environment at risk," said Chin-chin Gutierrez, actress and vice chair of the Mother Earth Foundation.

Eco-friendly tips

Sison listed these environment-friendly tips on how to celebrate Valentine's Day:

- Connect with nature. Take a trip to the farm, a park or ecotourism site. Bring along packed meals of local, organic and healthy food.
- Write a love letter or Valentine poem. Think of creative ways to say "I'm so lucky to have you!" that will not strain the environment or your wallet.
- Give local sweets like "pastillas" and candied fruits. If he/she prefers chocolate, give *tablea* made from organic cacao beans. Sweeten cakes and drinks with *muscovado* (brown sugar).
- Buy accessories made from local, natural and renewable materials. Consider necklaces and earrings fashioned from recycled materials. The production of gold jewelry entails huge amounts of mine waste, which disfigures the earth, displaces communities and poses health risks.
- Go for pesticide-free flowers. Give plants that are easy to maintain. The Manila Seedling Bank Foundation (Quezon Ave. corner Edsa) sells fruit-bearing, flowering and forest tree saplings.
- Opt for clothing, bathing and sleeping materials made of 100 percent cotton or other natural fibers. Avoid "no-iron" or "easy care" garments that contain formaldehyde (a known carcinogen).
- Avoid cosmetics with harmful chemicals. Give a body-care basket of virgin coconut oil, herbal soap, gugo shampoo, loofah, *tawas* (alum) and pumice stone.
- Dine the organic way. Patronize restaurants that serve organic food and do not offer any endangered species on their menu.

Sison admitted that some of the tips were not readily available or could be expensive, like pesticide-free flowers or organic food.

"But if these eco-friendly products were available, then people would start using them," she said.

This, Gutierrez said, would send signals to manufacturers to produce earth-friendly products and would give consumers a range of healthier options.

Love the planet

Love should not be limited to human beings, but should also include love for the planet, Gutierrez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"It's hard to make people take environment-related advisories seriously. But people tend to listen on Valentine's Day. It is the day of hearts," Sison said.

Sison's group is not the only one calling for earth-friendly Valentine gifts.

In Washington, the Organic Consumers Association is urging a boycott of traditional Valentine's gifts in favor of organic and fair-trade chocolate and flowers.

"Most Americans have no idea what goes into these Valentine's Day gifts," said Ronnie Cummins, the group's national director.

The group noted that major cocoa suppliers were accused in a lawsuit of benefiting from child slave labor in cocoa bean plantations in the Ivory Coast.

In addition, Organic Consumers said, a study showed that flower workers in Ecuador had been sickened from pesticide use. *With a report from AP*

No Bantay Bata funds used for Ultra stampede victims

From page A1

INQUIRER report on Saturday that raised questions on ABS-CBN's alleged use of its charity arm to get donations for its compensation of the stampede victims.

She said it was the network that was "shouldering all the victims' funeral services, medical expenses, as well as plans for medium- and long-term assistance."

"ALL—I repeat, ALL—the financials have come from ABS-CBN, the network," she said.

Special fund

Lopez said that while ABS-CBN had "not solicited any kind of material help" for the victims, it had accepted donations and put these in "a special fund dedicated for this purpose."

"My employees and that of the network, even my brother Gabby (ABS-CBN chair and CEO), and the executives themselves have personally gone out and attended to the victims," she said, adding:

"We are committed to our role in this situation.

"I must say I do not appreciate some quarters targeting ABS-CBN Bantay Bata's integrity while the facts say otherwise."

Lopez also said Bantay Bata was "undertaking an intense anti-malnutrition program in Metro Manila and in the 12 depressed areas of the country."

She said they would increase services in the Children's Village, and launch chapters in Bicol and Zamboanga.

No accusation

Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, clarified that he was not pointing an accusing finger at ABS-CBN when he agreed with the point raised by the INQUIRER that it would not be proper for the network to use Bantay Bata funds for the stampede victims.

He said a Bantay Bata official had told him "she would have answered in the same way."

"Bantay Bata is really for the support of child victims of violence and hunger," Defensor said. "There are different donors—individual or corporate—that support Bantay Bata, but it is not for them to compensate the victims because that is really [the role of] ABS-CBN."

Defensor said he had previously commended the ABS-CBN management for taking responsibility for the tragedy. He also said he was well aware that Bantay Bata was "only being used for social work to help the victims injured and affected by the stampede."

Earlier, an official of a major corporation, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER that it had issued a check for the stampede victims in the name of Bantay Bata.

'We are coping'

Tina Monzon-Palma, program director of Bantay Bata, told the Kapihan sa Sulo news forum that ABS-CBN executives had been emotionally affected by the crisis brought about by the stampede but were managing to think clearly to deal with the many issues facing the corporation.

"We are coping," Palma said when asked how ABS-CBN was doing after the tragedy and the flak that followed. "I've not seen a team of people who may get emotional at times [yet still] think very clearly on what our priorities are as a business organization and a media organization."

Palma would not directly address the issue of whether the other media firms, including its competitor-network, GMA-7, had been fair in the treatment of their reports on the stampede and the circumstances surrounding it.

She said it was up to the public to draw its own conclusions on what was fair media coverage under the circumstances.

But as far as the network was concerned, she said: "We are struggling. We are doing our best."

Palma reiterated that Bantay Bata funds were not used to pay for the victims' needs.

"The funds we have been using in assisting the stampede victims come from the ABS-CBN network," she said.

She added that "in due time," the network would present data providing details on how expenditures for the victims were sourced and spent.

'Very useful'

Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon told the same news forum that while the investigation report submitted by Task Force Ultra on the stampede was incomplete, it may still serve a purpose in the victims' search for justice.

"I think it would be unfair to say that what the task force and [Interior] Undersecretary (Marius) Corpus had done was useless," Fadullon said.

"The facts that they had gathered, the statements that they had taken, the interviews that they had made would be very useful as leads for the conduct of a more exhaustive investigation. In that sense, I will categorically say that it was not useless," he added.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had earlier said the report submitted last week by the fact-finding team led by Corpus was insufficient.

In its report, the fact-finding team blamed the ABS-CBN organizers for their failure to ensure the safety and welfare of the estimated 30,000 people who showed up as early as three days before the airing of the first anniversary special of the daily game show "Wowowee."

With only 72 hours to work with, the inter-agency task force came up with a narrative of how the stampede occurred and recommendations on how to prevent a recurrence.

But it did not include such documentary evidence as death certificates and witnesses' sworn statements.

Out-of-court settlements

Speaking on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio morning show over dzMM, Palma also said ABS-CBN would be open to out-of-court settlements with the families of the stampede victims if they would eventually file cases against the network.

Asked by the INQUIRER about the coverage of the prospective settlements, Palma said by phone: "It's an option but as of this time, no lawyer has talked to us about a case."

She said it would still be premature to talk about the extent of the settlements if no cases had been filed by the victims against ABS-CBN.

"As of now I have not heard of any case yet except that of Dante Jimenez and VACC (Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption)," she said.

Palma also said that during interviews with the victims' families to assess the kind of assistance they needed, no one had raised the subject of the legal process.

She said that during those interviews, some of the victims were appreciative, while others showed anger.

"We are now in the process of profiling all the victims to determine the kind of help the network could extend to the families, because each family has its own needs," she said.

The VACC has set up help desks to assist and advise those victims who may be planning to file a class suit against ABS-CBN.

"Maybe after the burial, or on Monday, someone could already be knocking on our door," Palma said. *With a report from Nancy C. Carvajal*

Gonzalez: ABS-CBN looking for someone to blame

By Armand Nocum

ON HIS RADIO PROGRAM "Hustisya Para sa Lahat (Justice for All)" on radio dwIZ, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez decried alleged efforts by ABS-CBN to influence public opinion as well as the outcome of the investigation on the stampede that killed more than 70 people and injured hundreds of others.

"You'll notice now the trend of what ABS-CBN is doing: They are injecting things which would tend to mitigate their responsibility," he said, adding:

"The tendency now is to look for somebody to blame [other than] those on their side.

"Every day in their news program, they interview somebody who speaks in their favor."

Gonzalez said the network had been harping on the fact that the Pasig police and local government should have helped in crowd control even without formal meetings with the show organizers.

He acknowledged that the police could have provided help on their own: "That is true. The police have an obligation to help in times of trouble without being asked to do so."

Gonzalez also said he had ordered an investigation of certain police officials who allegedly stopped National Bureau of Investigation agents from conducting an autopsy on some of those killed in the stampede.

"I don't know what's wrong there. Why would one agency try to prevent the NBI from doing its work?" he said.

COMMEMORATING the first week of the Ultra stampede, cause-oriented groups offer Mass, prayers and wreaths for the victims at the People Power Monument on Edsa.

EDWIN BACASMAS

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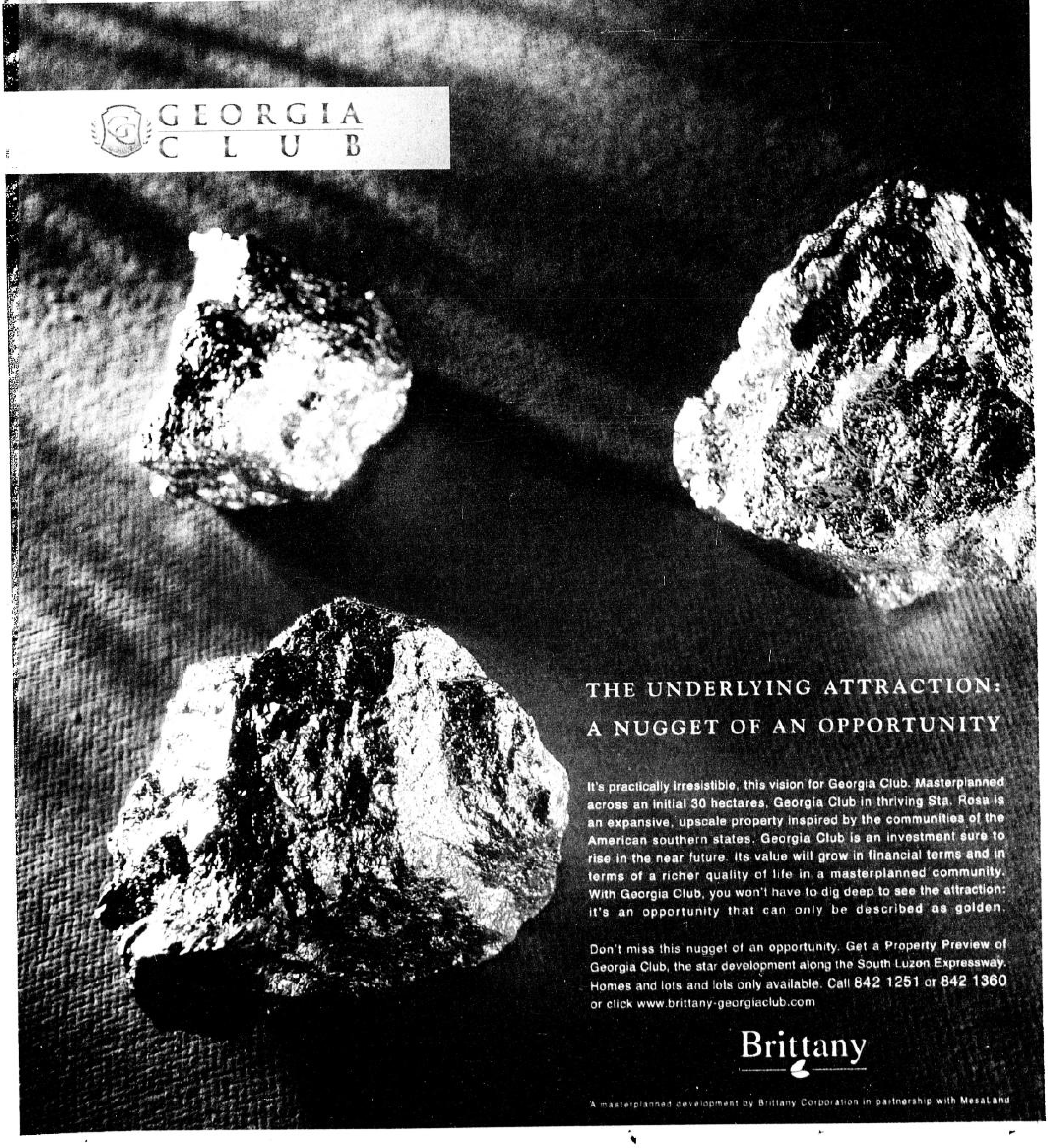

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EO 464 aims to humiliate Drilon, says senator

THE ROW OVER EXECUTIVE Order 464 is actually a quarrel between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Senate President Franklin Drilon, a ranking administration senator told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The senator, who requested anonymity because of his position, said the "target" of the controversial executive order was Drilon and not the Senate.

The lawmaker said the President was trying to impress on Drilon that he could not "conspire" and use the budget hearings "in the effort to oust" Ms Arroyo from power.

"All the play here now is: Malacañang is not after the Senate. It is after Drilon. (Ms Arroyo) wants to humiliate Drilon and tell him 'You can't win,'" the senator said.

"Senators know this and mumble about it but they don't want to talk about it publicly," the source added.

The senator said Palace officials got angry because even before the House could act on the proposed 2006 budget, the Senate was already conducting budget hearings to "embarrass" executive branch officials whose agencies were embroiled in anomalies.

"(The budget) should have been taken up by the finance committee ... but Drilon set the Senate as a committee of the whole to emasculate and embarrass Cabinet members," the senator said.

Checkmate?

"So, Gloria's answer was to tell her officials not to go. And Drilon was checkmated. Drilon is always crying foul, always telling us that this is an affront to the Senate but we don't buy it," the source said.

The senator said that it was Ms Arroyo herself who decided to come out with the executive order, adding that she might have not done it if Drilon had not been the Senate President.

"If Drilon were not Senate President, we would already be talking. The President is telling him 'Oh, you team up with Cory, with Erap, all designed to force me out of power. Let's see if you think you have the power,'" the source said.

'Smart little girl'

The source added that Ms Arroyo was also expecting government employees to blame the Senate if they did not get their salaries on time should the budget be delayed further.

"The President has all the cards. I thought before that (Ms Arroyo) was making blunders left and right but it turns out that she's brilliant. The little girl is very smart. She has not given up on anything," the senator said.

"Those in the Palace are now calling (Drilon) a cry baby."

Despite the odds

The lawmaker noted that Ms Arroyo was able to "pull this off although she has a negative popularity rating and most of the media are against her."

But the source claimed that Ms Arroyo was "not pushing for anyone" to take Drilon's post.

"And besides," the senator said. "Nobody seems to be interested in it with all these troubles."

Palace blinks on EO 464

From page A1

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the decision to allow government officials to appear at the hearing was reached in a meeting yesterday morning of Palace advisers led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Claudio, who had held private discussions with administration senators the past three days.

The meeting was also attended by new chief presidential legal counsel Eduardo Antonio Nachura.

The Supreme Court is to hold hearings on the Senate petition questioning the constitutionality of the EO on Feb. 21.

Conciliatory move

Defensor said that allowing the Cabinet officials to appear at the budget hearings was part of Malacañang's "conciliatory effort" to avert a constitutional crisis.

Defensor explained Ms Arroyo earlier decided to bar Cabinet officials from appearing at the budget hearings because the senators were more interested in raising political questions rather than monetary matters.

"This is not a gag order for the Cabinet. We are just protecting the administration. We are not asking them to stop asking all their political questions. We are just asking them to keep most of the questions on the budget and policy issues," Defensor said.

Go slow on 'Garci'

"Probably they could have 20 percent of their questions regarding 'Hello Garci,' the fertilizer scam and whatever scam they can think of," Defensor said. "The senators we talked to understand that it is not the institution of the Senate that is being attacked. These are the individual senators that are trying to destabilize the government."

Malacañang's relations with the senators had deteriorated into a bruising verbal war in the wake of the "Hello Garci" tapes controversy involving wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano supposedly dealing with rigging the 2004 elections.

Last week, officials of the Office of the Press Secretary and Department of Interior and Local Government refused to attend the Senate hearings.

Gonzalez said he talked to Ms Arroyo during her visit to Clark Field, Pampanga, on Friday and "she told me that if you feel you should attend, you just attend."

"So I'm attending the hearing on Monday," he said.

Something unusual?

Gonzalez said, however, that he found it a "little unusual" that the Senate had convened as a committee of the whole for the budget hearings.

"It is not always that the Senate convenes as a whole to tackle the budget. Usually, the process is for them to do it by committee. The committee on finance of the Senate is what hears the budget," he said.

Downplaying concerns that the Senate might cite him in contempt should he fail to answer certain questions, Gonzalez said he was banking on his friendship with the senators.

"I hope that that is the thing ... the mutuality of respect ... by reason of, first, separation of powers and the principle of check and balance," Gonzalez said.

Bert Gonzales not around

Sen. Richard Gordon said he had been told by Jake Lagonera, the Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer for the Senate, that Gonzalez would attend tomorrow's hearing.

However, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, whose agency's budget is also to be taken up tomorrow, will be absent since he is abroad, Gordon said.

Gordon said he also talked to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who told him that the row over EO 464 would soon be resolved "positively."

"I told him 'Toting, I'll have you arrested' (for not attending the budget hearing). He laughed and said 'I think this will soon be resolved positively,'" Gordon said.

Gordon said Malacañang might have realized that it was going to lose the case before the high court.

"I'm sure it's going to be a no-win situation for them. They probably realized that's the law, or friends told them that they'll lose the case," he said.

Solomonic decision

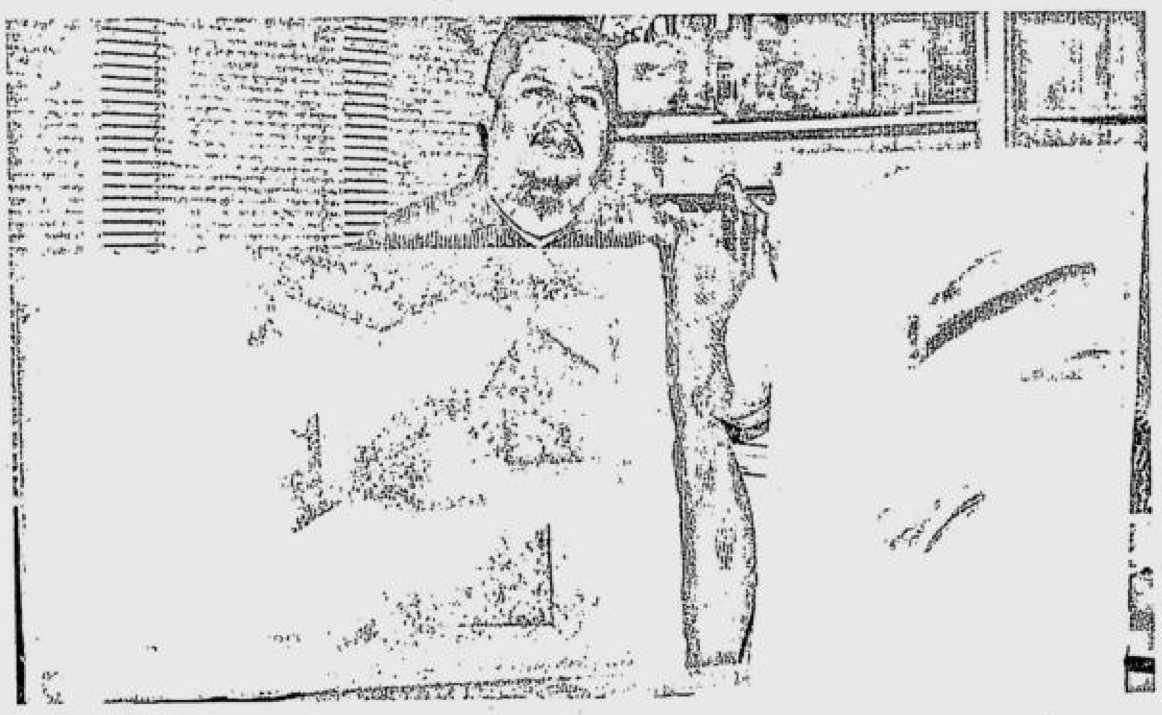
Gordon also discounted reports that there were plans in the Senate to declare the Philippine presidency vacant.

"I don't think there is a position taken that Gloria should resign. I see no reason right now to do that unless she herself decides to resign. That would also be a very bad precedent," Gordon said.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and another administration congressman, Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas, called on the Supreme Court to prioritize deliberations on the constitutionality of EO 464.

"A decision by the Supreme Court not to intervene in the issue would leave Senate-Palace relations in limbo and may even worsen their gap," Cagas said.

"A solomonic solution is now imperative," Nograles said. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Norman Bordadora*



MICHELANGELO Zuce with his works he describes as a "mix of modern abstract and conceptual art." RUDY ESPERAS

CUEVASVILLE BUYERS BE AWARE!

No judgement on land ownership

On 19 November 2005, the Inquirer ran an article entitled *"Court junks claim suit vs. Cuevasville Realty,"* saying that the Court of Appeals upheld the right of Cuevasville Realty and Development Corporation (the "Cuevasville Realty") to develop and sell subdivision lots in Cuevasville Subdivision in Bacoor, Cavite (the "subject lots").

Said article may be misleading since it suggests that the Court of Appeals had already adjudged Cuevasville Realty as the owner of the subject lots.

On 8 May 2002, A & F Development Corporation ("A & F") filed with the Regional Trial Court of Bacoor, Cavite (Branch 19) a case for Annulment/ Cancellation of Title and Damages against Cuevasville Realty, docketed as Civil Case No. BCV 2002-54. A & F asserts that it is the real, absolute and registered owner of the subject lots.

The fact is that as of this date, the trial court has not completed the trial on the merits and there is still no judgment on the legal ownership of the lots in Cuevasville Subdivision. While Cuevasville claims that it is the owner, it holds a much later title in its name (1999). A&F's title over the subject lots is older (1968).

The 11 October 2005 Order of the Court of Appeals, which was the subject of the Inquirer article, referred only to the legal issue of what is the *status quo*. The trial court, on 24 September 2002, ordered A&F and Cuevasville Realty to maintain *status quo* while the case was pending. Since Cuevasville Realty proceeded with the construction and development of Cuevasville subdivision, A&F held that Cuevasville Realty violated the trial court's *status quo* order. The Court of Appeals permitted Cuevasville Realty to continue construction only because it was not deemed violative of the *status quo* order; and not because Cuevasville was adjudged owner.

In sum, rulings of the lower court and the Court of Appeals only pertained to the interpretation of the term "status quo" as it related to the provisional order of the lower court directing the parties to maintain the same. **The issue of ownership of the Lot No. 5804 N, Fls - 1848 (Cuevasville Subdivision, Bacoor, Cavite) remains a pending issue.** Cuevasville Buyers Be Aware!

A & F Development Corporation
C/o Room 3, G/Floor
Makati Medical Center
Makati City

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Jobless Zuce ...

From page A1

said in an interview on Friday.

Zuce described his paintings as a mix of "conceptual art" and "modern abstract."

He said he had never felt prouder than now of his work—which looked like it needed much improvement—compared to the electoral fraud that he had seemingly perfected as an art.

"When I paint, I forget the past, the troubles that I went through. Besides, I can also express my moods, my frustration, anger, dismay," he said.

Auction

Two of Zuce's paintings were auctioned off on Feb. 7 after a symposium at the Manila Polo Club. The event was organized by a group of concerned women seeking the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

One painting—a 21" by 29" oil on canvas showing geometric figures in bright red and yellow—was sold to Lily Chan for P15,000. *(See photo above.)*

The other, a smaller one, was sold for P10,000 to lawyer Lorna Kapunan. *(See photo above.)*

As an election operator, Zuce said he was uncomfortable when he had only P3,500 in his pocket.

But since August—when he testified before the Senate about how cheating was conducted by his uncle, then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, to support Ms Arroyo's presidential candidacy—Zuce said he was now at ease even with only P100.

Regular Bible study with a support group has also helped him refocus his life away from material needs, he said.

In fact, it was during a Bible study in December that he talked about how he found peace in painting.

"They said it could help me sell the paintings," Zuce said, pointing out that since his Senate testimony, he had been jobless and had had to rely on financial help from concerned groups.

Surprise

Zuce had a big surprise when he heard the news that his two paintings had actually been sold to the "highest bidder" after the symposium at the Manila Polo Club.

He admitted that the money was a pittance compared to what he used to make as an election operator.

A former staff officer at the Office of the Presidential Liaison Office for Political Affairs in Malacañang, Zuce told a Senate committee hearing in August that Ms Arroyo herself was present when envelopes containing P30,000 each were distributed to election officials at the Arroyo house in La Vista, Quezon City.

He also claimed to have received P500,000 for personal and professional expenses while monitoring local politics in Mindanao. He said the money was handed to him by Garcillano himself.

When the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal broke out in June, Zuce said he was also offered a monthly P20,000 allowance in return for his silence on his activities with Garcillano.

But he said he declined the offer reportedly from a Malacañang emissary, and went on to testify before the Senate in August.

Father and son

Since then, Zuce has been staying in a safe house with his three children—aged 8, 7 and 5—and his father Florante, 57, a widower for four years now.

He said he learned to paint from his father, a self-taught artist and a member of the Mabini Artists Group in the early 1970s.

Florante Zuce quit the art scene when he returned to Mindanao, where his only child, whom he named after one of the world's greatest artists, would be born in 1975.

It was predictable that he would encourage his son to take up painting, "to drive away boredom" while cooped up in the safe house.

"Now I am following in my father's footsteps. He is my idol, you see," the son said with a laugh.

Said the father: "There's room for improvement. He has a long way to go."

The two are planning a father-and-son exhibit soon, when they have the work and the venue ready.

But Zuce said his masterpiece has yet to be expressed on canvas.

"I have no painting yet on election fraud," he declared seriously.

Hundreds seek anointing at World Day of the Sick

By Tina G. Santos

HUNDREDS OF ELDERLY, SICK AND DISabled people gathered to receive "healing" as the Archdiocese of Manila and the Philippine Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (Pasmom) celebrated "World Day of the Sick" yesterday at the Espiritu Santo Parish in Tayuman, Manila.

World Day of the Sick is celebrated annually on Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, whose shrine in France has become a "temple of human suffering."

It is held on a different continent each year. With the theme "Mental Health and Human Dignity," this year's celebration was held in Adelaide, Australia.

In his message, Pope Benedict XVI reiterated his commitment to this annual event and said that he would make himself spiritually present at the World Day of the Sick, "so as to pause, reflect in harmony with those taking part, on the situation of the mentally ill in the world and to call for the commitment of the Church communities to bear witness to the tender mercy of God towards them.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, who presided over the concelebrated Mass that was followed by the blessing and anointing of the sick participants, noted that millions of people were healed not only in body, but most importantly in the soul.

"All of us have weaknesses, nobody's perfect so all of us need healing," Rosales said, adding that the late Pope John Paul II designated the day as a "special time for prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and reminding everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ."

Rosales added that the purpose of the special day was to recognize those in the health care ministry, to provide an opportunity for reflection on Church teaching on health care and to pray for those who are sick.

Ernesto Rufino Jr., president of the Grand Cross of Magistral Grace, said "we like to take advantage of the miracles that happened. We'll try to recapture those and we know that Our Lady has a special love for the Philippines."

"Maybe by celebrating this particular feast of hers, we can ask her to shower us with more graces and a lot of healing/ All of us also need that," he added.

As early as 1984, Pasmom has been holding the annual mass and anointing of the sick as it recognizes the need to address and commit itself to the concerns of the sick, most especially the underprivileged.

The Order of Malta served breakfast to the sick participants and health care volunteers after the Mass.

ARCHBISHOP Gaudencio Rosales, with Nellie Delgado and Lena Vera of the Philippine Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, anoints a sick baby. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 12, 2006
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Rules on leprosy

Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has a boil, an inflammation or a sore on his skin which could develop into leprosy, he must be brought to Aaron the priest, or to one of the priests, his descendants.

"This means that the man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest shall declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head.

"A person infected with leprosy must wear torn clothing and leave his hair uncombed; he must cover his upper lip and cry, 'Unclean, unclean.' As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live away from others: he must live outside the camp."

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Paul's example

Whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do it for the glory of God. Give no offense to the Jews, or to the Greeks, or to the Church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything. I do not seek my own interest, but that of many, this is: that they be saved.

Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45
Cure of a leper

A leper came to Jesus and begged him, "If you so will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." The leprosy left the man at once and he was made clean. As Jesus sent the man away, he sternly warned him, "Don't tell anyone about this, but go and show yourself to the priest and for the cleansing bring the offering ordered by Moses; in this way you will make your declaration."

However, as soon as the man went out, he began spreading the news everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter any town. But even though he stayed in the rural areas, people came to him from everywhere.

Commentary

The law of Moses in regard to lepers sought to protect the people from a disease that they thought was contagious. The lepers were to avoid the people. They were outcast and had to live on the fringe of the people. Only the priest could declare the leper clean again.

Jesus wills the cure of the leper who comes to him and reaches out to touch him, disobeying the law that doubly inflicts pain on the one who was sick. He is cautioned to be quiet but he tells everyone what Jesus had done for him, in the process pushing Jesus outside the community as bearing the danger of contagion in himself now. Yet people come to him. We are commanded to imitate Christ, to touch the outcast and the sick, and to will the life of all excluded from society by old laws and traditions based on ignorance and fear. Do we imitate Christ?

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Cartoons anger unabated

DAMASCUS—TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MUSlims around the world vented their anger Friday in a seething wave of protests over satirical images of the Prophet Mohammed, torching flags and clashing with police.

From Tehran, Cairo, Istanbul and Nairobi to Kuala Lumpur and Islamabad, protesters took to the streets after traditional Friday prayers as politicians scrambled for answers to a crisis that has exposed cultural and religious divisions.

Police in Egypt fired rubber bullets and tear gas, while Kenyan police also used tear gas as a few rallies turned violent, but there was no repeat of the mayhem that has so far left 13 people dead worldwide.

The furious reaction follows publication last September of 12 cartoons by Denmark's Jyllands-Posten newspaper, one of which depicted him with a bomb in his turban, all since reprinted in other countries and on the Internet.

Muslims regard portrayal of the prophet as blasphemy, and the reaction has raised searching questions on where to draw the line between religious rights and free speech.

Denmark's ambassador to Syria quit Damascus with his staff, the foreign ministry said late Friday, citing an "unacceptably low level" of official Syrian protection at the mission, which had been ransacked the previous weekend.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan wrote to world leaders calling for reconciliation "for the sake of global peace," saying the row had "created tensions ... between the Islamic and Christian worlds as never seen before in recent times."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he regretted the offense caused, but insisted nothing justified the violent backlash.

"I understand the offense the cartoons have caused, we all regret that," he told a party meeting, "but nothing, I repeat nothing, can justify the violent retribution visited on innocent people or on embassies around the world or the glorifying of acts of terrorism."

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana will seek to repair ties strained over the furore during a five-stop Middle East trip next week, aides said.

They said he would meet leaders in Saudi Arabia and then Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian territories and Israel.

But the demonstrations continued unabated Friday.

In Tehran, a leading cleric praised Muslim "holy rage" in a Friday prayer carried live on state radio.

Branding Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen as an "idiot", Hojatoleslam Ahmad Khatami turned the focus on Washington, saying: "Denmark is a nonentity. It is America that rears such cronies as Denmark."

Defying his calls for a halt on attacks on foreign embassies, demonstrators later hurled Molotov cocktails at the French Embassy and threw rocks at the Danish mission.

In Nairobi, baton-wielding riot police fired tear gas canisters to disperse 300 protesters who tried to storm a cordon outside the Danish Embassy, hurling rocks and other missiles.

Egyptian police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at 12,000 people when an after-prayers protest in Mahalla el-Kubra, 75 miles north of Cairo, turned violent, an interior ministry source said.

He said around 30 people were injured and 20 were arrested.

Thousands of people also demonstrated across Turkey, burning European flags and effigies of the Danish premier.

"The army of Mohammed is the fear of infidels! We will kill the bastards of the crusaders," a crowd outside Istanbul's historic Beyazit mosque chanted.

In the Middle East, the radical group Islamic Jihad threatened to "burn the ground beneath the feet" of anyone who caricatured the prophet.

"Apologies from European governments will do, but if they persist in their attack on the prophet we will burn the ground beneath their feet," said Jihad leader Khader Habib during a Gaza City rally attended by thousands. *AFP*

SHARON AFP

Ariel Sharon improves after surgery

JERUSALEM—COMATOSE Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's condition improved after an emergency operation on Saturday and he was out of immediate danger, a hospital source said.

"The operation has ended and he is out of danger," the senior source said. The hospital was due to give a statement later.

Earlier, a hospital spokesperson said the condition of Sharon had worsened and his life was in danger,

In a CT of Sharon's stomach Saturday, doctors discovered that his digestive track had been seriously damaged, said Yael Bossem-Levy, spokesperson for the Hadassah Ein-Kerem hospital where Sharon is being held. In light of the damage, it was decided to immediately operate on Sharon, Bossem-Levy said in a statement.

"Sharon's life is in danger," Bossem-Levy told The Associated Press in a phone call after the statement was issued. His condition is now "very serious, or critical," she said.

Sharon suffered a massive stroke on Jan. 4 and has been unconscious ever since. A CT scan of his brain earlier this week showed that he was in serious but stable condition.

Sharon on Feb. 1 had a feeding tube inserted in his stomach, an indication that his doctors were thinking in terms of long-term care for the 77-year-old Sharon.

Reuters, AP

New deadline for reporter

KUWAIT—KIDNAPPERS HOLDING US journalist Jill Carroll say they will carry out a threat to kill her unless their demands are met by a Feb. 26 deadline, Kuwait's Al Rai TV said on Friday, citing sources close to her captors.

In response to a question from Reuters, Al Rai chair Jassem Boodai declined to specify the kidnappers' demands. In previous videos, Carroll has said her captors are demanding that all female prisoners in Iraq be freed.

"The demands are specific. We have passed them on to the authorities," Boodai said.

Al Rai TV aired a new videotape of Carroll on Thursday. She was abducted in Baghdad on Jan. 7 by militants who also killed her Iraqi interpreter.

The private television station said sources reported Carroll was being held in a house in Baghdad along with other women.

In the video aired on Thursday by Al Rai, Carroll, 28, was shown wearing a headscarf and apparently composed and in good health—unlike a previous video in which she was distraught.

"I'm here with the mujahideen. I sent you a letter written by hand. I'm here, I'm fine. Please just do whatever they want," she said. "Give them whatever they want as quickly as possible.

There is very short time. Please move fast."

Carroll had last appeared in a video aired on the Qatar-based Al Jazeera television on Jan. 30. in which she appealed to fellow Americans to press for the release of Iraqi women held by US-led forces. *Reuters*

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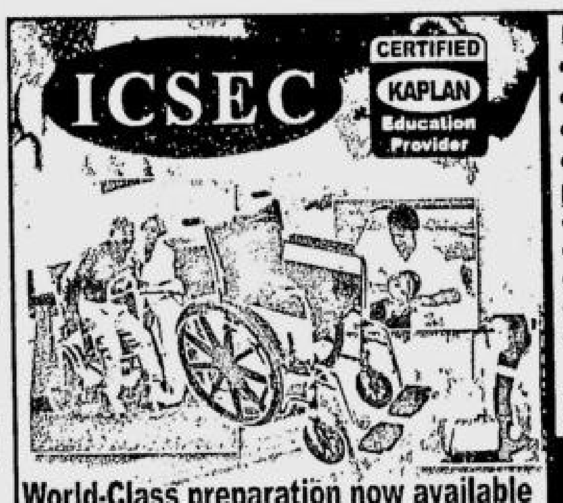

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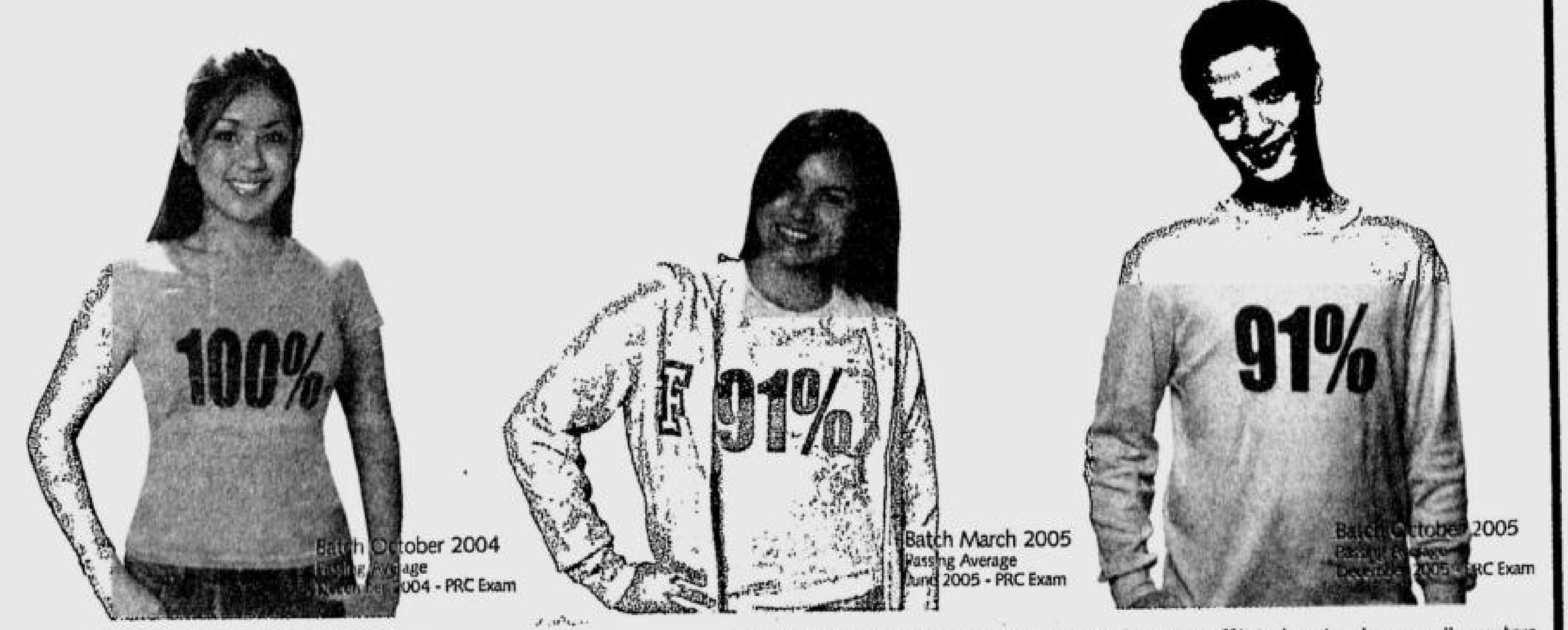

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Senate told W. House dragged feet on Katrina

WASHINGTON—THE FORMER director of the federal disaster agency testified Friday that the White House was warned earlier than it admits about the rupture of New Orleans' levees by Hurricane Katrina and the city's flooding.

Michael Brown, who was the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) when Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005, told a US Senate panel investigating the government's slow response to the disaster that he had personally alerted the White House on the night the storm hit.

Brown said he had phoned White House deputy chief of staff Joe Hagin on Monday night, telling him of the destruction under way after a FEMA official had reported seeing breached levees during helicopter overflights of the Louisiana city.

"I think I told him that we were realizing our worst nightmare, that everything we had planned about, worried about, that FEMA, frankly, had worried about for about 10 years was coming true," he said.

"I really don't recall if the president got (on the line) ... But I never worried about whether I talked directly to the president because I knew that in speaking to Joe I was talking directly to the president," said Brown, who was ousted from office amid stiff criticism of his agency's response to Katrina, the single largest natural disaster in US history.

Officials of President George W. Bush's administration have insisted they were alerted to the flooding only on Tuesday.

Critics say the administration's response was too little and too late, and contributed to the loss of more than 1,300 lives in four states, including 1,100 in New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

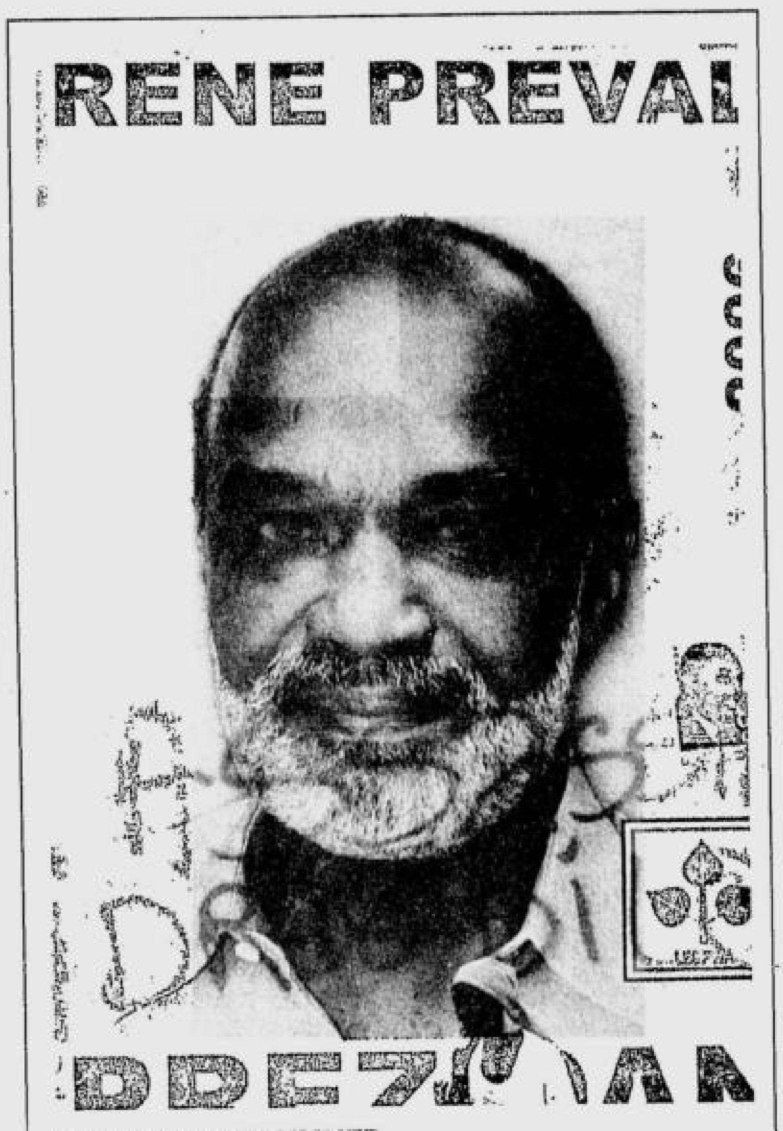
The White House on Friday swiftly contested Brown's testimony that the administration knew about the levees before the timeframe they had claimed.

"There were conflicting reports coming in, in the initial aftermath of the storm in regards to the levee system," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

"Some were saying it was overtopped, some were saying it was breached. And, again, we knew of the flooding that was going on, that's why our top priority was focused on saving lives. The cause of the flooding was secondary to that top priority, and that's the way it should be."

On Aug. 30, the day after Katrina hit, Bush, vacationing in Texas, said he was relieved that New Orleans had escaped the worst of the storm. Later that day the president announced he was cutting short his vacation to return to Washington, given the extent of the damage along the southeastern coast and the need to coordinate rescue operations.

Brown told the Senate panel that a FEMA employee had overflown New Orleans by helicopter twice on Monday afternoon, at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. local time, and had warned him that he had seen breached levees, which prompted him to telephone the White House. *AFP*



HAITI FRONT RUNNER
A Haitian woman walks in front of a poster of presidential candidate Rene Preval, vandalized with the words "assassin, junkie," in Port au Prince Feb. 10. Former President Preval appeared headed for an outright victory in Haiti's first election since Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted two years ago, according to rivals and initial vote counts. REUTERS

Bird flu claims 2 more people, hits Azerbaijan

BAKU—AVIAN FLU spread to a new country with Azerbaijan saying on Friday the lethal H5N1 strain had been found in wild birds floating dead on the Caspian Sea.

China and Indonesia reported two more human deaths from the virus, discovered earlier this week in Nigeria after what a senior United Nations official called a devastating spread from southern Asia over the past seven months.

Health experts are trying to warn people of the danger of a virus that is contracted through direct contact with infected birds. But episodes in countries as far apart as Nigeria in West Africa and Iraq showed the struggle they face.

Nigerian poultry farm workers used their bare hands to throw dead chickens onto fires as village children stood by to watch in an area where H5N1 flu virus was found earlier this week.

In the southern Iraqi city of Amara, which is investigating a human death that may have been caused by bird flu, children played among the dead fowl.

Muhaned Radhi's uncle said his nephew, a pigeon-seller, had been suffering from flu. "In hospital he turned worse and began bleeding from his mouth and nose, and then he died."

The World Health Organization (WHO) has already confirmed 88 human deaths since the virus reemerged in late 2003 and the figure is steadily climbing.

Indonesia said a woman being treated for bird flu at a specialist Jakarta hospital had died and another patient was in critical condition.

The virus has also killed a 20-year-old woman farmer in the central Chinese province of Hunan, the Ministry of Health said.

There are fears the virus could mutate to a form where it can spread from human to human, sparking a pandemic in which millions could die.

David Nabarro, who heads the UN drive to contain the virus, said there was no evidence it had mutated to that point, but added: "It's not far away."

A senior scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO) offered a glimmer of hope, saying a limited number of migratory birds appear to be spreading a single substrain of the H5N1 virus.

In theory, this could lower opportunities for the H5N1 to mutate into an easily transmissible form, according to Michael Perdue, an epidemiologist in WHO's global influenza program.

"It could reduce the mutation level ... You are less likely to have widespread mutation than if you had 20 strains hop-scotching across Asia." *Reuters*

Egypt unearths pharaoh tomb in Valley of Kings

LUXOR, EGYPT—EGYPT UNveiled on Friday the first Pharaonic tomb discovered in the famed Valley of the Kings since that of the boy king Tutankhamun in 1922.

"This is the first tomb discovered in the Valley of the Kings since that of Tutankhamun 84 years ago," Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities Zahi Hawas told journalists at the recently excavated site.

Five mummies were found inside the roughly 2 m by 150 cm tomb, held inside painted wooden sarcophagae and surrounded by 20 clay pots.

Hawas said the tomb, buried under three metres (seven feet) of limestone and pebbles, had to be cleaned before any attempt was made to open the sarcophagae and identify the mummies, who, he said "were probably royalty."

If the mummies are not royal, they are certainly those of "very rich people close to the king," he said.

The find dates from the 18th dynasty of around 1500 BC to 1300 BC and was made by US archeologists barely 5 m from the tomb of the now world-famous boy king, discovered by Britain's Howard Carter in 1922.

Despite being one of Egypt's least significant kings, Tutankhamun has been surrounded by mystique because of the legend of the curse released when the tomb was opened, supposedly leading to the deaths of Carter and other members of his team.

A team from Memphis University led by Otto Schaden first announced the discovery on Tuesday.

The clay pots, which bear pharaonic seals but whose contents are as yet unknown, were arranged haphazardly, suggesting the burials were made in haste, the US team said.

Archeologists have yet to actually enter the burial chamber, having until now only slightly opened the ancient entrance to get an idea of what remained inside after 3,000 years of systematic looting.

The Valley of the Kings was used as a burial site for royalty and nobles to the west of present day Luxor, some 700 km south of Cairo.

Millions of foreign tourists come to see Egypt's phraonic treasures each year, including hundreds of thousands making the long journey south from the capital to the Valley of the Kings.

Three dynasties of Sun Kings are buried here along with relatives, members of the court, and the occasional queen. The tomb revealed this week is the 63rd in the area. *AFP*

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The coming catastrophe

EDITORIAL

TO BE SURE, THERE IS AS YET NO WORLDWIDE scientific consensus to support Al Gore's 10-year global warming scenario. The world's environmental burden may indeed reach a "tipping point," for the worse, within a decade, as he told a rapt audience in Makati City last Thursday. Or it may not. There are reputable scientists on both sides of the rather arbitrary 10-year divide. But none of this means we should not listen to or heed the message of the ex-vice president of the United States.

The message, at its core, is both solid and desperate. Contrary to the deepest beliefs of the gas-guzzling cowboys running the White House, global warming is a fact. The world may have longer than 10 years in which to avert an ecological catastrophe, but that doesn't change the real bottom line: The time to take action is now.

Gore's focus was on the steady increase in carbon dioxide levels, worldwide. The additional carbon dioxide weaves a kind of heavy blanket around the planet; the covering helps trap heat, thus raising temperatures around the globe (the so-called greenhouse effect). These higher temperatures have quickened the pace at which glaciers and the polar ice cap melt.

In Gore's reckoning, if trends (many of which he spotted using Nasa data) do continue, in 10 years or so, sea levels would rise by an average of five meters—that's more than 15 feet, the size of a veritable tsunami.

"Two million people in Manila will have to be relocated," he told his audience of international and local leaders. The logistics of relocation will be a nightmare in itself, as the tragedy at Ultra a week ago tells us. Of course, there is also a possibility that the flooding of Metro Manila, especially of its northern areas, will happen, like a recurring bad dream, over some time; it won't happen overnight. But that, again, will be a nightmare in itself; it is difficult to get institutions and individuals to commit to disaster prevention programs, when change happens in increments.

If the average sea level does rise by five meters, the actual damage to Metro Manila would be unimaginable.

Gore's message, in a word, is dire. Consider that he had tailored his presentation to the needs of the Manila elite; there are many other coastal cities at or even below sea level in other parts of the country. If the average sea level does rise by the height of an ordinary house, there will be many more Filipinos needing evacuation than just the two million in Metro Manila.

Of course, the problem is not limited to the Philippines alone. Gore, in fact, is on a global tour, in an attempt to provoke the international community to take specific steps to stop the coming catastrophe. His message, in every stop, is the same.

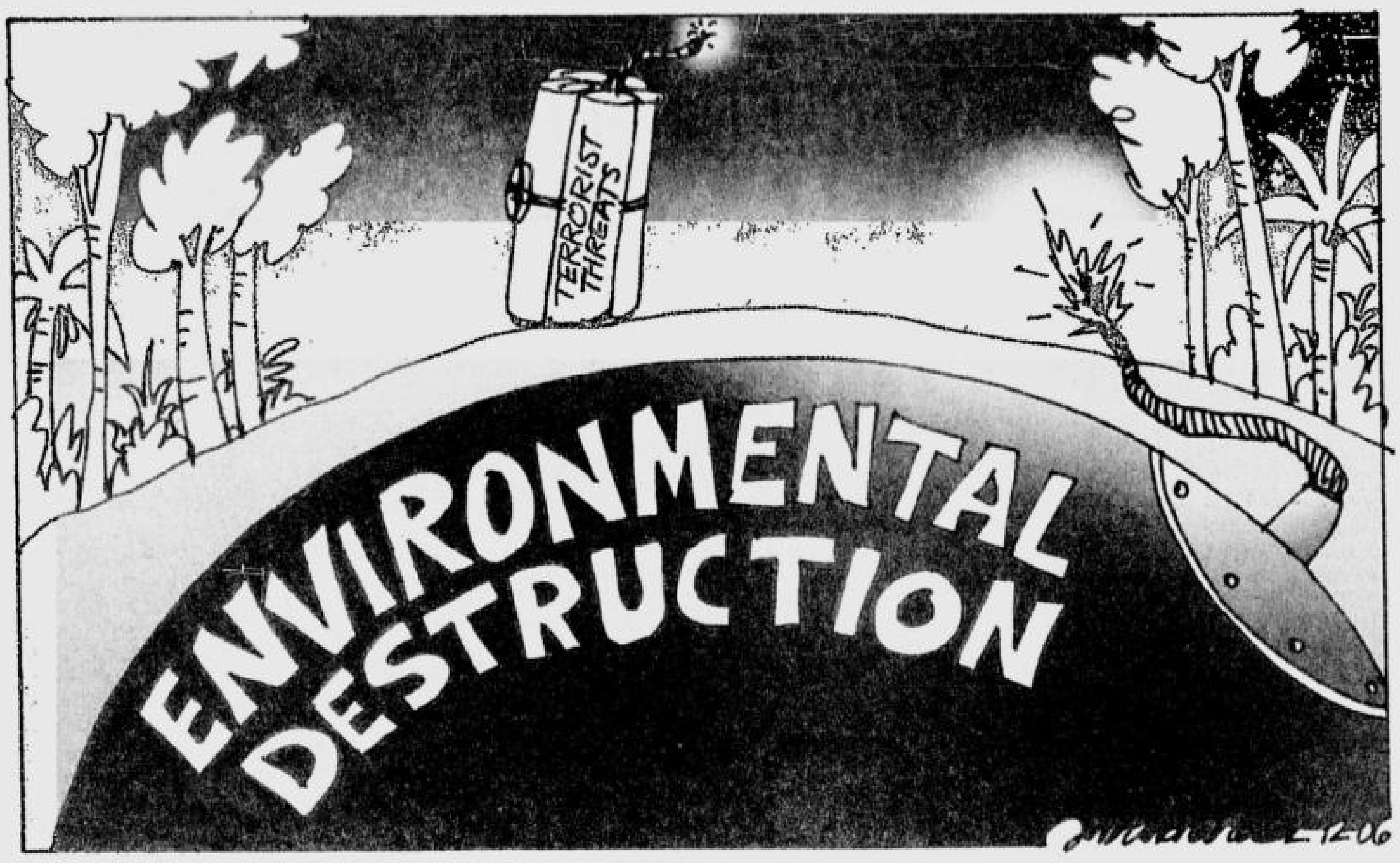
"We should be worried about threats like terrorism, but we should also be worried about other more important threats like the destruction of the environment."

For those who follow the ebb and flow of American politics, this is Democrat-speak for Republican wrongheadedness. There is the acknowledgement of the terrorism threat, but there is also the recognition that "more important" problems exist, and that the Republicans running the American federal government have their priorities all wrong.

Need we concern ourselves with the realities of American politics? Sadly, the answer is yes. The Bush administration continues to refuse to sign the Kyoto Protocol, which many in the international community think may actually give all of us a fighting chance at lowering carbon dioxide levels in the medium term. The Bush administration's recent discovery of America's "addiction" to oil made for catchy sound bites in last month's State of the Union address, but as American opinion leaders have since found out, the rhetoric of lowering dependence on oil, etc. does not match actual Bush policy.

In sum, the United States remains Gore's main audience: If the world's biggest economy—the largest energy consumer, by far—fails to heed Gore's message, we may do our little bit, but his 10-year scenario may still come true.

We certainly need to prepare for the unimaginable, but together with other countries, we can also, now, put pressure on the United States.



Broadcasting bad grammar and pronunciation

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

(Let us relieve ourselves of this week's tensions and relax instead on the following non-political and non-controversial discussion of some familiar errors that can be corrected without a legislative investigation.)

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING SUPERIOR OR AS an officious fault-finder, I make the well-meaning suggestion that the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas exert some effort to correct the English grammar and pronunciation of some of our television and radio newscasters. These persons are heard by thousands of their audience every day who are likely to be misled by some of the common language errors of the broadcast media.

Some months ago, I heard a newscaster speaking of a threatened epidemic who repeatedly pronounced "malaria" as "mala*y*ria." The word is derived from the Spanish "mala aria," and in Spain they do not pronounce "aria" with a long "a" as in "baby" or "crazy" but as "*ah*-ria," as in "tanga." That telecaster probably wanted to project a fake Harvard accent and only succeeded in sounding silly.

Another word that is almost always murdered by Filipinos is "award." The second "a" is made to sound as in "hard" or "bard," but that is a mistake. "Award" is not pronounced like "bastard." The second "a" in award should sound as an "o," as in hall, ball, fall, tall, stall, mall. "War" is "wore," not "wahr" although many people rime it with "star" and "bar." Presenters at award ceremonies should be able to distinguish between "car" and "core" and to use the "o" in "bore" in pronouncing "award."

Another practice of some newscasters is the continued use of the execrable "at this point in time" that became popular in the United States some 40 years ago. That was a pretentious phrase introduced by the Nixon boys during the Watergate scandal, but it soon became as unwelcome as their disreputable president himself. It is seldom used there now except by those who are still thrilled by its artificiality.

Say "at this point" or "at this time" but never "at this point in time" unless you want to distinguish it from "at this point in space." There's no point at this time except in time unless you want to be inter-galactic.

It was Noli de Castro who, when still a newscaster, used the words "*kalalakihan*" and "*kababaihan*" when referring to specific individual men and women. He spoke of "*apat na kalalakihan*" or "*tatlong kababaihan*" when what he meant was "*apat na lalaki*" or "*tatlong babae*." The Tagalog words "*kalalakihan*" and "*kababaihan*" refer to men or women in general, as in "*ang kababaihan ay ginagalang ng kalalakihang Pilipino*." Three women do not make up the whole of Noli's "*kababaihan*" even if he is now Vice President.

And while we are on the topic of grammar and pronunciation, let me repeat my criticism of some Filipinos, not necessarily only those in the broadcast media, who talk like displaced Americans in hopes of being identified as post-graduate alumni of some Ivy-league university. In Columbia, a phonics teacher offered to remove my late brother Vic's native accent but our father's son graciously declined, saying he preferred to retain his racial identification. In our family, we are not ashamed to speak like Filipinos.

Not so with some of our countrymen who would Anglicize everything they say to falsify their Asian roots. One way to do it is to accent every word on the first syllable, as most Americans do but not out of vanity. The graduates of a prominent university indulge this duplicity to announce their academic distinction but only reveal their pomposity. CIRcumstance, CERemony and TEStimony are correct, but not BUlacan and MAlacañang. And it's spelled HERrera but pronounced ERrera or the Spaniards will get sore.

Most people pronounce it STABilize, which is correct but not preferred. The better sound is STAYbilize. But don't believe Webster when he says it should be pronounced PAYso, for we know better. It may not amount to much but it's still our Philippine PEHso. And, yes, it's birthday celebrator, not celebrant. A celebrant is one who officiates at a rite like a Mass, not one who's happy for being a year older. And you watch out for falling debris but not a popular show. "Watch out" is a warning, not an advertisement.

Radio and television have a strong influence on the thinking of their audience, which is why their announcers and telecasters should take special care in avoiding those common errors that their less prepared listeners are prone to adopt. Choice of the proper word and its correct pronunciation is a tool in trade of the broadcast media that can be used to help educate their impressionable listeners.

In a recent local movie, the hero, a car-for-hire driver, referred to his passengers as his "clients." Only lawyers used to have clients, as doctors their patients, but now even plumbers and barbers service clients. Some pretentious broadcasters who ran and lost in the last elections must have disenchanted their clients.

Hopes and dreams

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A TEENAGER IN a sports car who hurriedly stole the parking space from an old man who was already carefully backing up his old Rolls Royce. Getting out of the car, the young man grinned and said: "You got to be young and quick to be able to do that, pops." The old man grinned too, and continued to back up his Rolls Royce into the occupied parking space, crunching the tiny sports car into a total wreck. "And you have to be old and rich to be able to do that, son," he said.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk 1, 40-45) Jesus healed a leper who begged of Him, "If you wish, you can make me clean." He expressed his deepest hope and dream—to be healed—and Jesus, moved with pity, granted his wish, immediately. In a world where hopes and dreams are crushed and trampled upon, we all must learn to cherish each other's hopes, and to be kind to each other's dreams.

* * *

The stampede at the Ultra, which left 74 people dead and scores of others hurt, is a grim reminder of how hopes and dreams could be crushed and killed, literally. The poor people who went to the Ultra and camped out there for days for the first anniversary of "Wowowee" were driven by a simple desire to participate in the show, hoping to win a few extra pesos that could help alleviate their poverty. After all the investigations, finger-pointing and witch-hunting, there is one lesson that has to be said and better done: Do not manipulate, do not kill peoples' hopes and dreams, especially those of the little ones.

* * *

Jesus was "moved with pity." That means Jesus has a heart. Soon, it will be Valentine's Day, to remind all of us that we all have a heart, and that matters of the heart still matter. I hope that our leaders who have stolen and pocketed the poor people's money will be moved not only with pity but also by true repentance; and that they will have the heart to change their selfish ways and really give to our people what is rightfully theirs. And please, don't just give them "bread and circus" or empty promises; or use them for photo ops. For heaven's sake, give them back their hopes and dreams.

* * *

I recently experienced one cathartic moment during a group picture-taking. We were all set with our beautiful (automatic!) smiles when someone from the group shouted: "Stop!" He then proceeded to break a branch from a poor, frail and fragile plant that was "blocking the view." Ouch! Upon reflection, I realized how many of us break people's hopes and dreams just to be in the picture. The poor plant's only fault was in being there, trying to survive. We came in just for a five-minute picture-taking, and we killed it. May all of us, especially our leaders, realize that we are just passersby in this world. May we not in any way destroy the people, the values and the institutions that have been there before us and will continue to be needed long after we are gone.

* * *

Happy Valentine's Day! Two questions: Do you still have a heart? Do matters of the heart still matter to you? It is a very fast world we are living in, a world that measures happiness in terms of material success and bounty. However, the bottom line is that true happiness is not in the pocket but in the heart. What's the use of all your millions, your positions and your possessions if there is no peace and love in your heart? Go back to your heart, and there find peace.

* * *

Two things we must not forget as we go through life: passion and compassion. As we grow older, may we continue to have the initiative and the drive in whatever we are doing and in pursuing our hopes and dreams. May we also continue to have a heart for people, and help them also pursue their hopes and dreams.

* * *

Do not belittle one little act of kindness or compassion. It could change a person's life. My brother Manong Oscar can tell you how Fr. German Chicote, OAR, then the director of San Sebastian College, "opened the door" for him, an ex-seminarian and late enrollee, and gave him a chance to study, and excel, and proceed to graduate as the valedictorian of their high school class. Likewise, one unkind act, one burst of anger, or one show of arrogance can affect other people's lives. Let us be sensitive to other people's hopes and dreams.

* * *

"A dream is a wish your heart makes," so a song goes. My wish for you dear reader is for you to be able to make your dreams come true, and while you're at it, to make other people's dreams come true, too. Go ahead, make your dreams come true, but in doing so, may you not become a nightmare to the people around you. Happy Valentine's, everyone!

* * *

Get to know the Lord better via your cell phone. Text on DAILY GOSPEL to 2295 (Globe) and receive daily Gospel reflections.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, help me make my and other people's hopes and dreams come true. Amen.

Waiting for a miracle

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST MONTH, THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov), in partnership with the Ateneo School of Government, conducted a forum on the subject of customs and internal revenue programs in the country. The guest speaker was Guillermo Parayno Jr., one of only two Filipinos who have headed the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs at different times during a long and distinguished career in public service. Incidentally, since he left government work several months ago—as a member of the Hyatt 10 who broke off from the Arroyo administration last July—Willy has been traveling to such exotic destinations as Kirghizia, Kazakhstan and other Central Asian Republics as a World Bank consultant on revenue matters, sharing with developing countries in the region the fruits of his experience in Philippine revenue work.

These days, one is never too sure about what the real state of revenue collections are. One day, the BIR or Customs comes up with a report on its collection performance, proudly stating that targets have been reached, only to be corrected by the national treasurer disputing the report, or qualifying it with terms like "non-cash revenues" which ought not to be taken up, or with some other statements to this effect. One can therefore appreciate the growing public skepticism about revenue performance reports.

In his talk at the governance forum, Parayno made some disturbing observations—actually, he used the term "tragic." He noted that we have known for a long time what ails our revenue agencies. Through the years we have been grappling with these issues of how to raise collections and how to improve law enforcement. World Bank technical assistance missions have provided diagnostics and all sorts of recommendations on tax policy and administration in 1994, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. Assessment and follow-up reports on these recommendations were undertaken in 2004 and 2005. Without mentioning what those recommendations were, suffice it to say that they have been recurrent and reflective of the features of modernization programs made by the revenue administrations of other countries.

Parayno says: "No revenue administration, past and present, will say that it does not know what is wrong and what must be done to improve efficiency and effectiveness. In fact, each administration can point to its own blueprint, corporate strategy or development plan for its program .... The thinking, analysis and proposals in these plans, while having similarities and overlaps with those provided by international experts, are in many respects a lot more comprehensive and detailed, clearly demonstrating that the BOC and the BIR and all those dealing with these agencies know what is wrong and what should be done."

Parayno continues: "Year after year, administration after administration, the same tragic observations are made—that we have not improved our effectiveness and efficiency and continue to lag behind many of our neighbors. Clearly the issue is no longer whether or not we know what to do. The question is whether or not we have what it takes as a country and as a people to rise above our present difficulties."

He defined the problem as a tendency to rely and expect too much on our government, on BIR and Customs in particular, to bring about the improvements needed. We tend to place all the responsibility on just one man—the Man at the Top, the commissioners—to fix the country's primary Aegean stables.

He depicts our situation, relative to other country administrations, as not much different from being in a dragon boat race. While the competition has 50 rowers and only one barksman, our boat has one rower and 50 barksmen. (This reminds me of the revolving door policy in the Armed Forces, where there are several barksmen in a short period of time.) There is also the tendency to put all the blame for poor fiscal performance on the revenue agency workforce.

Parayno ended his talk by calling on former colleagues in the Department of Finance "not to waste any more time on problem definition and solutions identification but to focus instead on creating conditions that will unleash the power of the business community, civil society groups, the academe and other concerned sectors of our society towards the immediate implementation of solutions already identified." He called upon friends in the private sector to "take matters.into your own hands instead of waiting for a miracle to happen in government."

* * *

From 1956 to 2006: Next week, 41 retired officers make the five-hour trek up Kennon Road or the Marcos Highway, all headed for Fort Del Pilar, home of the Philippine Military Academy. It is a route they have traveled many times over since 1952 when they first stepped foot at the portals of the Academy. From an original number of 80, the class of 1956 now stands at 41—still a good percentage for any group marking its Golden Jubilee. They will be honored by the cadet corps and will endeavor to troop the long gray line, something they have done for almost each year of the last 50 years, perhaps not as ramrod-straight as in previous occasions, perhaps not as sprightly as before, but with the same spirit and pride that have marked their careers in the military service. Congratulations to the Class of 1956!

Geisha from Western eyes

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN AN EARLY ESSAY, ITALIAN JOURNALIST ORIana Fallaci writes of a visit to a teahouse where geishas entertained wealthy customers. From what I remember of the essay, Fallaci found the encounter harrowing and disgusting. She was traveling round the world in search of the definitive image of the "ideal woman" and had hoped the geishas would give her a glimpse of their rarefied world of refinement and artistry.

What Fallaci found instead were women whose faces were encased in white masks, shiny from sweat, the features drawn harshly against the pale canvas. She found their simpering tones annoying, and found the ritualized interaction between the geishas and their customers stultifying. Sensing Fallaci's boredom and restlessness, one of the geishas broached a delicate question: "Do you yourself like women?" Suffice it to say that the evening did not end well.

A more sympathetic depiction of the geisha is to be found in Arthur Golden's 1997 novel, "Memoirs of a Geisha," which purported to tell the "true" story of a woman named Sayuri who—at the time Golden supposedly interviewed her—lived in New York where she rendezvoused with her wealthy Japanese patrons and entertained prominent visitors from Japan. There are those who claim "Sayuri" is a composite of several women; others say she is completely fictional, her story fleshed out from research. Golden has always maintained that what he wrote was a novel, though he acknowledges developing a fascination for the subject when, in the years he lived in Japan, he met a friend whose mother had been a geisha.

* * *

FICTIONAL or not, "Memoirs of a Geisha" became a bestseller, mainly because it swept aside the curtain of secrecy which once veiled the world of the *hamamachi* or Geisha district with the air of intrigue and mystery.

That world comes to life in the movie version of Golden's book, a multicultural production that combines Hollywood glitz and production capacities with Asian talent and Oriental mystique. Director Rob Marshall, fresh from his "Chicago" triumph, puts his stage training to good use in recreating Sayuri's world, stage managing the depiction of Japan in the years before World War II.

But in seeking to tell Sayuri's story against the backdrop of history, Marshall reduces much of the novel's charm. What makes the book so fascinating is the wealth of sumptuous details: the various layers of the kimono that the women put on; the ingredients of the white makeup they slather on their faces, which unfortunately includes lead; the training they undergo not just in dancing, *samisen*-playing and pouring tea, but also in the simplest gestures of flicking their wrists and displaying the merest hint of flesh in raising their hems.

A lot of these details are lost in the movie, as are the emotional overtones of the rivalries that roil around in the small world in which Sayuri and the other geishas live. The movie follows the painful dance of conflict between Sayuri and her tormentor, Hatsumomo; and between Hatsumomo and Sayuri's mentor, Mameha; but it hardly communicates the intensity of feelings and their impact on the women's future.

For instance, as Mameha invites valued clients to bid for the privilege of deflowering Sayuri, they find out that Hatsumomo has been spreading word of the young geisha's supposed sexual proclivities. This wrinkle is resolved easily in the movie, but in the book, it causes a major upheaval and heartrending anguish.

* * *

AMERICAN media have made much of the producers' choice of actors: two Chinese and a Chinese-Malaysian to portray the three Japanese leads, with the rest of the cast being Japanese, headed by Ken Watanabe who portrays The Chairman, the tycoon who by a single act of kindness gives meaning to the life of the girl who will become Sayuri, the most famous geisha of Gion.

Zhang Ziyi is Sayuri, lending the geisha both fragility and steely resolve. Michelle Yeoh is less credible as Mameha, as she seems unable to adjust her strong personality to the fragility demanded of her role. But it is Gong Li, as the troubled, selfish and self-centered Hatsumomo—compelling with her flashing dark eyes and cruel curl of the lips—who grabs much of our attention.

Indeed, the three constitute a casting coup, combining powerful acting with international appeal, and not a little *chismis* power, to boot, in the supposed real-life rivalry between Zhang Ziyi and Gong Li.

In China, censors have decided against allowing the movie to be shown in their theaters, concerned that the casting of Chinese women as Japanese courtesans might trigger a new wave of anti-Japanese sentiment. But if anything, the casting of Chinese actors in a Hollywood movie about an American's view of pre-modern Japan merely underscores the globalization of the film industry, and the iconic power of the West's ideal of the fragile, submissive "Oriental" woman.

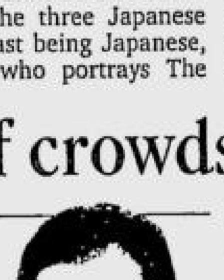
* * *

TO THIS day, there are still geishas in Japan, young women who enter the profession out of a love for traditional arts and rituals. They see their role in Japanese society as continuing a venerable tradition.

It is difficult to pin down exactly what role the geishas play in Japanese society. They are not strictly prostitutes, though as the book and movie shows, their sexual favors are up for bidding and they seek long-term security by way of a wealthy *danna* or patron. They entertain clients, but seek to do so with clever conversation, scintillating company and the maintenance of mystique. But neither are they completely accepted by society, for as Sayuri indicates at the movie's close, despite her "happy" ending, she dare not even think of herself as The Chairman's wife. For the geishas of the world, love is a luxury they can ill afford.

Sociology of crowds

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, SOME PEOPLE MUST take responsibility for what happened at Ultra. Mass poverty set the stage for the tragedy, and mass media commercialism made it happen. For the purpose of assigning liability, the legal system cannot avoid attributing motive and allocating blame. In search of better forms of solidarity, we cannot avoid pointing out its connection to poverty.

But, in another sense, the Ultra tragedy is nobody's fault in particular. If we step back a little, we may view the killer stampede as the objective result of a phenomenon that is little understood. This is the phenomenon of the crowd. Crowd behavior is unpredictable. The study of crowds alerts us to the gulf that separates conscious personal behavior from delirious collective behavior.

The deaths of 74 people and the injuries sustained by hundreds of others who came to participate in the first anniversary of the noontime program "Wowowee" were accidental. No one could have foreseen the stampede and the magnitude of the destruction it caused. If people were even minimally aware of the danger the event posed, many would not have come. The ABS-CBN network would probably not have staged the event outside company premises. The local government of Pasig would not have issued a permit, and the police would have sent a crowd control unit to monitor the lengthening lines of people.

I watched TV footage of the long queue at Ultra taken just hours before the stampede. There were many poor people, mostly adult women with haggard faces. But these were not angry faces. The crowd was not a resentful or an unruly one. It was not spoiling for a fight. Indeed it was extremely docile, compared to the massive protest crowd of the poor that gathered at the Edsa Shrine on May Day 2001. Therefore, I am not surprised that the guards at Ultra did not anticipate the violent stampede that broke out early Saturday morning. Like us, they were unprepared for the rapidity with which the crowd had formed. They could not have known the sheer irrational force a crowd could unleash once provoked.

"The crowd, suddenly there, where there was nothing before," writes Elias Canetti in his brilliant book, "Crowds and Power," "is a mysterious and universal phenomenon. A few people may have been standing together—five, ten or twelve, not more; nothing has been announced, nothing is expected. Suddenly, everywhere is black with people and more come streaming from all sides as though streets had only one direction. Most of them do not know what has happened and, if questioned, have no answer; but they hurry to be there where most other people are. There is a determination in their movement which is quite different from the expression of ordinary curiosity. It sees as though the movement of some of them transmits itself to the others. But that is not all; they have a goal which is there before they can find words for it. This goal is the blackest spot where most people are gathered."

The same stagnant crowd that levels all distinctions while it is intact can violently disintegrate at the moment of discharge: "Everyone shoves, hits and kicks in all directions." It is irrelevant to ask who started it all. "The more fiercely each man 'fights for his life,' the clearer it becomes that he is fighting against all the others who hem him in….Neither women, children nor old people are spared: they are not distinguished from men. Whilst the individual no longer feels himself as 'crowd,' he is still completely surrounded by it …. The individual breaks away and wants to escape from it because the crowd, as a whole, is endangered. But, because he is physically still stuck in it, he must attack it. To abandon himself to it now would be his ruin, because it itself is threatened by ruin. In such a moment, a man cannot insist too strongly on his separateness. Hitting and pushing, he evokes hitting and pushing; and the more blows he inflicts and the more he receives, the more himself he feels. The boundaries of his own person become clear to him again."

This morbid account summarizes what basically happened at Ultra last Saturday. The crowd had acquired a life of its own, sweeping aside and trampling upon the bodies that stood in its path. Gertrudes Mendoza-Grantham, a 73-year-old grandmother from Antipolo who had brought some of her children and grandchildren with her, recalls what it was like: "The sound was really so loud. I was shouting: Help! There are dead people here. But they didn't stop. The dead were stepped on. The others pushed on, and the gate was half-open."

But what was equally remarkable about the Ultra crowd—which Canetti's analysis seems to overlook—was the presence of some individuals who, in the middle of that collective frenzy, kept their senses and performed acts of selflessness. Marissa Graboso, 35, remembers a man who scooped her 7-year-old son, passed him to others, who then carried him away from the throng. The same person also saved the children of Vilma Catabang.

The stampede occurred very fast, almost like a momentary madness descending upon a community. It collected its toll, then left as swiftly as it came. People remember quickly coming back to their senses, pausing, and instinctively helping those who had fallen. But for the presence of mind of the faceless heroes in that crowd, more people would have perished, especially the young children who were wrenched from their elders.

Such is the delirium that can grip a crowd. It is a blind force that mocks all reason. We need to understand it more so that we might begin to forgive one another and ourselves.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

'Bakit Pa Kita Minahal'

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

SO YOU LOVE HER.

You may not know how, or why, or when, but you realize that if you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody; you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible (preferably before the 14th of February).

But you know there's a difference between knowing the path, and walking the path.

To the thousands of hearts struggling to be free, this column tracks the path to true love. Do not be afraid. Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering. To love is to suffer. To avoid suffering, one must not love; but then one suffers from not loving. Therefore, to love is to suffer, not to love is to suffer, to suffer is to suffer. To be happy is to love; to be happy then is to suffer, but suffering makes one unhappy; therefore to be unhappy one must love or love to suffer or suffer from too much happiness.

In other words, you're going to suffer either way. You might as well be in love. But I can only show you the door—you have to walk through it.

May the force be with you.

'Maging Sino Ka Man'

It's an improbable romance. You're a country boy. She's from the city. She has the world at her feet while you don't have two dimes to rub together. You are the earth to her sky, the pirated to her original—she's all that, and you're just a backstreet boy.

But is it hopeless? In the words of the immortal Cher, "As if!"

A. "Love? Above all things I believe in love! Love is like oxygen! Love is a many splendored thing, love lifts us up where we belong, all you need is love!" (A beautiful way of saying "I can't afford the roses, the dinner, the movie, the suit and the car.")

B. "As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again." (If she says yes, you will never be.)

C. "I'm the king of the world!" (She might just believe you.)

'Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita'

The man of your life is with someone else (and she happens to have better legs, a better car, and is a size C). Don't take it lying down. Fight.

A. "She'll only break your heart, it's a fact. And even though I warn you, even though I guarantee that the girl will only hurt you terribly, you'll still pursue her." (If your boy hates being told what to do.)

B. "How extravagant you are, throwing away women like me. Some day we may be scarce." (If your boy is an economist, accountant or just really cheap.)

C. "E.T. phone home." (If your boy is looking for a mother figure.)

'Una Kang Naging Akin'

You think everything's perfect, then one day your dream girl says, "I know we fell in love at first sight—but maybe I should have taken a second look." When she takes your hands and says, "Baby, today, we celebrate our Independence Day," you know you're doomed.

You want one more shot, one more moment to prove that you're the man for her.

A. "After all, tomorrow is another day!" (If you know it was your fault and want to convince her you can change.)

B. "Mama always said life was like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're going to get." (If you know it's your fault and still don't want to change.)

C. "Bond. James Bond." (If your only chance is to convince her you're really a different guy.)

'Natutulog Pa Ang Diyos'

You think he likes you, but he's never said a word. You've smiled, batted your eyelashes, sent several text messages that you're free on the 14th, and blew hard-earned cash to have roses delivered to your desk in his presence, to no avail. It is time.

A. When you love someone, you say it. You say it right then, out loud, or the moment just… passes you by. (Then wait with an expectant smile.)

B. "Do I make you horny?" (It can't hurt to plant the idea.)

C. "I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog, too!" (No explanation necessary.)

'Lumayo Ka Man sa Akin (or from Dubai to Milan)'

You're forced to leave in search of a better life. She doesn't believe your "I'll be back," and all you have are the five minutes between now and "*Hasta la vista*." Let her know that you're worth the wait.

A. "Do you want this jacket? I don't need it. I'm cloaked in failure!" (Appeal to her humanity.)

B. "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn." (So what if she wants to break up? As far as you're concerned, she's yours.)

C. "I have crossed oceans of time to find you." (If it worked for Dracula, it's bound to work for you.)

'Nakagapos Na Puso'

You've watched her from afar. You would rather have one breath of her hair, one kiss from her mouth, one touch of her hand, than an eternity without her. You inhale her. You taste her. You see your unborn children in her eyes and know that your heart has at last found a home. Your life begins with her, and without her it must surely end.

Unfortunately, she doesn't know you exist.

A. "Houston, we have a problem." (That's sure to get her to look at you.)

B. "I see dead people." (That's bound to make her think you're interesting.)

C. "I'm sorry, forgive me… but have you ever let a romantic moment make you do something that you knew was stupid?" (That'll give you time to duck after you kiss her.)

* * *

And when all else fails, stick your head out the window, open your mouth wide and scream your guts out.

"Don't give up on us, baby!"

* * *

E-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Cool Spider

"I named him Spider Webb because I thought it would be a cool jock name."

—Frits Webb, whose son Joshua David Spider, powered the Junior Archers to their first UAAP junior basketball championship

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

'Wowowee' tragedy

A MEDIA ORGANIZATION SCORES POINTS WHEN IT REPORTS NEWS AHEAD of the others. ABS-CBN had the opportunity to report way ahead of its competitors the stampede that killed 71 people and injured hundreds at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City on Feb. 4, the first anniversary of its TV show "Wowowee."

It was the kind of news that the network would rather not report on immediately. The network's radio station let a couple of hours pass before announcing to the world that something bad had happened at the PhilSports Arena, said Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus, head of the task force that investigated the tragedy.

Instead of calling ambulances or the police first, the staff of "Wowowee" contacted ABS-CBN management, costing emergency workers precious minutes that could have saved lives, according to Corpus.

The tragedy showed the extent to which the poor would go—staying for days in the streets without portalets or beds—so they could get a crack at winning prizes (P1 million in cash, house and lot, two tricyles, two taxis and one jeepney) that would help them escape poverty.

The stampede also highlighted the TV show's gimmicks aimed at attracting a huge audience and at ratcheting up its ratings. However, ABS-CBN considers the show a "public service" in which participants can win prizes that can start a livelihood and in which viewers from abroad can reach out and help fellow Filipinos.

TV show rebuilds

By Leah Salterio

DESOLATION IS THE FIRST WORD one thinks of when entering the "Wowowee" offices and studio, these scant few days after the tragic stampede at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

Whereas Wowowee's home, Studio 3, and the adjoining Wowowee staff room are usually buzzing with activity once lunchtime hits, the entire place is now quiet. Even mournful.

Silence

Where there were once raucous cheers and bouncy music, there is now the sound of silence—the silence of reflection and soul searching for the Wowowee's staff, crew and stars—and an entire network itself dealing with the aftermath of a tragic weekend that claimed 71 lives and injured hundreds.

What fans and sympathizers of the show are concerned about is the fact, now in danger of being forgotten, that in the year since the show started, and up until the stampede, "Wowowee" had indubitably done a lot of good in uplifting the lives of the people it touched.

From *pangkabuhayan* packages that seek to kickstart livelihoods to cash prizes that average P3 million to P4 million per month, "Wowowee" had looked out for the people in dire need who vied for slots in Wowowee's best-known segments, "Willie of Fortune" and "Pera o Bayong." *[See Willie's games]*.

"We have always seen "Wowowee" as a show for the people, even in the conceptualization stage," says "Wowowee" production head Marilou Almaden. "It had always been meant as a show where people didn't just play for cash and prizes, but as a place where they can participate."

Helping hand

Almaden staunchly denies the charge that "Wowowee" promoted mendicancy. "While we had games of luck, our participants certainly weren't beggars—but they, like many of our countrymen, can always use a helping hand.

"Where it was originally a game show, "Wowowee" became something that our fans had ownership of. Something like the segment where we give dollars to audience members who tell us jokes—we had fans from overseas who sent money spontaneously. We never solicited any of that. What happened is that we built this community of viewers and participants, which evolved to become public service—a place where even viewers from here and abroad can reach out and help their fellow Filipinos. And it's that spirit that needs to be remembered, I think."

Time to heal

With the entire network still reeling from the fallout from the past weekend, Almaden says that the men and women of "Wowowee" are focused on what most of the country wants—a chance and time to heal.

"Over the past year we've been on air, we've constantly gotten feedback from our viewers to the effect that when they see reports on our country in the media, it looks like the Philippines is always chaotic. But when they watch 'Wowowee,' they see that that isn't always the case. They have a place where people can laugh, enjoy themselves, and help each other at the same time. We're sure it will take time, but we are hopeful our audience can find themselves comfortable with the thought of being with 'Wowowee' again."

(Salterio is an ABS-CBN corporate public relations director.)

A time to grieve, a time to act

By Danilo Araña Arao

THE STAMPEDE OUTSIDE THE PhilSports Arena on Feb. 4 could be used by ABS-CBN and other broadcast networks to seriously rethink their entertainment programs' orientation. They should provide quality entertainment in the near future, a radical departure from current noontime and early afternoon shows that viewers have grown accustomed to.

For the families of the 71 who died and around 500 who were injured in the so-called "Wowowee" tragedy, this is an opportunity to organize themselves into a group that does not only call for justice but also serves as a venue for media advocacy to demand, among others, quality entertainment.

Development by lottery

Host Willie Revillame argues that "Wowowee" is helping the government provide a better life for the poor. While the intention may sound noble, the show ends up promoting, albeit unconsciously, "development by lottery." The show unwittingly develops a mentality that great things can happen to those who are lucky, especially if one were to analyze the mechanics of its games like "Willie of Fortune" and "Pera o Bayong."

In any case, it is not the mass media's primary responsibility to address the government's shortcomings. Instead, mass media should help in shaping public opinion. In the context of quality entertainment, this could be in the form of political satire or game shows that can make viewers reflect on their situation. Quality entertainment, after all, seeks to develop thinking audiences, not so-called couch potatoes.

Revillame stresses that his show does not exploit the people's poverty. A cursory analysis of the show's ratings and selected socioeconomic data, however, reveals that it mainly caters to those who are impoverished and that it is very dependent on support from them.

Poverty and ratings

In its first episode on Feb. 5, 2005, 18.8 percent of households in Metro Manila, Rizal and parts of Cavite, Laguna and Bulacan were tuned in to "Wowowee," based on AGB Nielsen Media Research's average minute rating (AMR) data. From Feb. 5 to Dec. 31 last year, an extrapolation of data from AGB Nielsen Media Research would show that Wowowee's average number of viewers per minute of airing was around 620,000 households. Twenty-six percent belonged to the C2 class and 62 percent to the D and E classes.

According to John Pateman's paper "Public Libraries and Social Class," C2 refers to skilled working class; D, semi-skilled and unskilled working class; and E, residual and those at lowest levels of subsistence.

Eighty-eight percent of Wowowee's viewers, therefore, are from the working class. They are apparently attracted to the show's P1-million grand prize. In Wowowee's aborted first anniversary celebration, selected contestants also stood to win a house and lot, taxi and jeepney, as well as other cash prizes ranging from P5,000 to P50,000.

That people started lining up as early as Jan. 30 does not come as a surprise. Given the high cost of living, even P5,000 is a big help in providing for the needs of a family, especially if parents have low-paying jobs or no jobs at all.

The government's Labor Force Survey in October 2005 showed that 2.6 million Filipinos were unemployed while 21.2 million were underemployed. The Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research claims that 350 Filipinos lose their jobs every day.

Having a job and earning minimum wage, however, does not mean that one can already provide for his or her family's needs.

The daily minimum wage for nonagricultural areas currently ranges from P180 (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or ARMM) to P325 (National Capital Region or NCR), according to the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC).

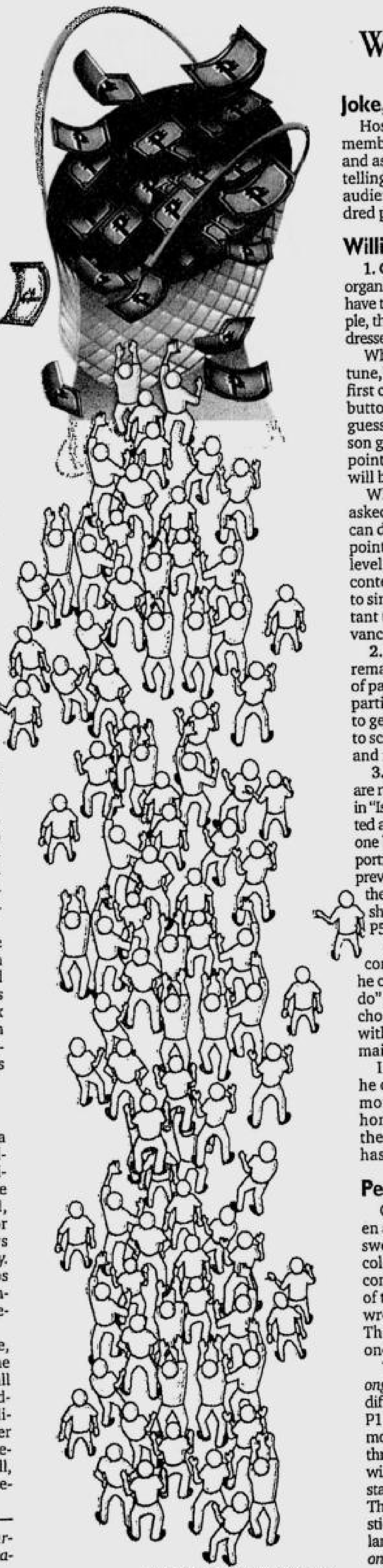
Based on NWPC's family living wage data in December 2005, a family of six in the NCR needs P690 to meet food and nonfood requirements in one day. It gets worse in the ARMM as a family of six there needs P872. Clearly, the minimum wage is not enough to meet a family's living requirements, even if both parents earn it.

Responsibility to viewers

These selected socioeconomic data serve to quantify the people's unrewarding toil and to justify Wowowee's audience profile. Unless there is a qualitative change in the poor people's daily grind, one can expect a wide following for "Wowowee" and other television shows that promise a quick ticket out of poverty. This explains why cause-oriented groups stressed that the government was responsible for the people's desperation that resulted in the stampede.

The "Wowowee" tragedy, therefore, should be a time for the people, led by the victims and their families, not just to call for justice but also to engage in media advocacy. They can start by demanding quality entertainment from ABS-CBN and other broadcast networks. The latter's management should heed this much-delayed call, putting the ratings war behind and its responsibility to its viewers forward.

(Arao is chair of the Department of Journalism in the College of Mass Communication, University of the Philippines.)



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Willie's games

Joke, joke, joke

Host Willie Revillame chooses members of the audience randomly and asks them to tell jokes. Upon telling a joke, corny or otherwise, the audience member gets a few hundred pesos.

Willie of Fortune

1. **Questune** - Prior to the program, organizers choose contestants who have the same occupation (for example, the contestants will all be hairdressers).

When Revillame calls for a "Questune," a pianist will play a song. The first contestant to press the signal button will be given a few seconds to guess the title of the song. If the person gets it right, he or she gets one point. If not, the other contestant will be given a chance to steal.

Whoever gets the title right will be asked to sing the song. If he or she can do that, he will get an additional point and will move on to the next level. If he or she cannot, the other contestant will be given the chance to sing and get the point. Any contestant that gets two points will advance to the next round.

2. **Isang Talon, Isang Sagot** - The remaining contestants stand in front of panels. Once a question is asked, a participant has to stomp on a panel to get the chance to answer. The first to score five points receives P50,000 and moves on.

3. **Biga10** - Ten audience members are randomly pre-chosen. The winner in "Isang Talon, Isang Sagot" will be pitted against members of the "Biga10" one by one in a question-and-answer portion. Every time the winner from the previous game is beaten by a "Biga10," the former loses P3,000. But if he or she is able to beat all 10, his or her P50,000 will be doubled.

4. **Sigurado o Doblado** - If the contestant is unable to beat all 10, he or she will choose from "Sigurado" and "Doblado." If he or she chooses the former, the game ends with the contestant keeping what remains of the prize money.

If he or she chooses "Doblado," he or she can either double the money earned in "Biga10" or go home with P50,000, depending on the combination of chips he or she has chosen.

Pera o bayong

One hundred contestants are given a question with three possible answers. Each "answer" is assigned to a color— red, green or yellow. The contestants will then go to the color of their choice. Those who select the wrong answer will be eliminated. The process will continue until only one participant remains.

This person will choose three *bayongs* [baskets] from 10 *bayongs* with different colors. Of the 10, two contain P1 million each and one has either a motorcycle or house and lot. From the three selected *bayongs*, the contestant will choose one. Revillame will then start bartering the *bayong* for money. The participant will decide whether to stick with the money given by Revillame or risk getting whatever the *bayong* contains.

PDI Research

What's a ticket worth?

Dr. Francisco Nemenzo

ORDERING AN INVESTIGATION of the "Wowowee" tragedy is the standard response of an inutile government. Everybody who has anything to do with the tragedy is ready with excuses, assisted by smart lawyers. It is doubtful if the investigators and government prosecutors will be able to pin down responsibility for the incident, especially if the findings tend to implicate corporate and government executives and popular show biz personalities. Like all other investigations in the past, it will produce an inconclusive report that raises more questions than determine culpability. Far from rendering justice, the courts, as in the past, will most likely penalize the small fry and exonerate the big fish.

What makes the recent incident utterly disgusting is the cynical exploitation of the psychosocial consequences of poverty to generate profits for the media lords and the big advertisers. Television host Willie Revillame says his program is meant to help people. But raising hopes of instant prosperity among those who don't have enough to eat will only ease the poverty of a few lucky ones. The total value of the proffered prizes is a small fraction of what the television company has earned in marketing profits.

The victims of "Wowowee" are not only the 71 who died and the hundreds injured but all those who lined up for three days in the hope of winning the goodies Revillame promised to dole out. The victims also include the hundreds of thousands who watch his show to be entertained and deluded.

Vulnerable

The poor, the elderly and the jobless are extremely vulnerable to such marketing gimmicks. There are many other shows that exploit the psychosocial consequences of poverty. The manufacturers of detergents, cell phone companies, banks, drug stores, and even bookshops run raffles to induce consumption. They, not only the *jueteng* operators, cultivate a culture of gambling.

I hope the recent tragedy will shock us into taking a hard look at the mass media, especially television. In this age of information technology, media form an integral part of the educational system. They are more powerful than the schools because their impact is stronger and their reach is many times broader. But media are unable to realize this potential for public enlightenment and cultural enrichment if they continue to be lodged in the market system and treated as a means for profit acquisition and profit accumulation. On the contrary, our commercialized media serve as tools for miseducation and idiotization.

We in Laban ng Masa see our mass media today as a pillar of elite rule, an instrument for manipulating public opinion and promoting servility and consumerist values.

We recognize that a responsible media is a necessary partner in the process of system change, in the struggle to restore our sense of national pride and in combating colonial mentality. We also believe that this freedom does not include the right to stage inane shows like "Wowowee" for the sake of profit. The commodification and exploitation of poverty is at the core of the issue.

We propose that radio and television be required to reserve prime time for educational broadcasting. Cinemas should be obliged to give preference to locally produced films using the national and regional languages. This will promote the freedom of responsible journalists to probe and attack the performance of evil not only in the government but also in the private sector.

(Nemenzo, a former president of the University of the Philippines, chairs Laban ng Masa, a coalition seeking fundamental reforms in the country.)

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Old medicines used in medical mission, says dad

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—AN INVESTIGATING team of the city council here has found that some medicines distributed during a recent medical mission by a US-based group in Capiz were expired.

The finding was in a report released Friday by the Roxas City Council's committee on health that investigated the complaint of some recipients that expired medicines were distributed during the medical mission Jan. 21-27 conducted by the Philippine Medical Society of Northern California (PMSN) headed by its president, Dr. Marlene Cordero.

Councilor Amador Anisco Jr., chair of the council's committee on health, said based on their investigation they noted the following irregularities:

- Capsules and tablets believed to be medicines for fever were placed in a plastic bag or sachets with no brand or generic name of the product.
- There was also no expiration dates or lot numbers for the medicines that the medical mission group brought with them from the United States.
- Some tablets and capsules had 2005 expiration dates that were handwritten with black ink.
- There were medicines believed to be antibiotics that had July 2005 expiration date that were erased by black pen but were still visible.

Anisco said they initiated the investigation after the offices here of the Bureau of Foods and Drugs (BFAD) and the Department of Health received complaints from five recipients of the expired medicines.

The complainants, he said, allegedly suffered various negative effects such as allergies, dizziness and chest pains.

City Councilor Mark Ortiz, president of the Roxas City Rotary Club that was one of the cosponsors of the medical mission, said the inclusion of the expired medicines might just have been caused by a mix-up during shipment.

He said he did not know the exact amount of medicines that were brought in but they were mostly over-the-counter medical products that arrived in two batches.

The first medicine batch arrived Jan. 21 and was inspected by the BFAD. The second batch, however, was not inspected by BFAD when it arrived Jan. 22.

Ortiz, also the president of the Silver and Gold Foundation for Family and Life (SGFFL) Inc., another co-sponsor of the medical mission, said the complaint of five to 10 persons that they ingested expired medicines should not negate the fact that over 9,000 mostly indigent residents of the city benefited from the mission.

"We are doing everything to help those who suffered adverse effects because of the expired medicines. We counted 8 to 10 complaints but with no medical certificate (to show) that they fell ill because the medicines they took were expired," Ortiz said.

COMMUTER
RN RILLON
President Arroyo rides a "sikad-sikad," a type of transportation inside the Gloria de Dapitan commercial complex which she inaugurated during her visit to Dapitan City.

USAID sends 2 docs to monitor bird flu

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) sent a two-man medical team here to help in the government's effort to prevent the entry of the deadly bird flu to the country.

Dr. Ingo Neu and Dr. Sagar Goyal were accompanied by agriculture and health officials during a courtesy call to Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. on Wednesday.

Goyal said they came to the city so they could get an idea about the preparations or precautionary measures being adopted by officials against bird flu.

A deadly strain of the virus has already caused death in several countries, including those in Europe.

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) said bird flu has become a pandemic after it was confirmed that the virus has already entered Africa.

Goyal said they wanted to help in plugging any holes, if any, in the local government's preparation against the virus.

Like other parts of the country, the city remains bird flu-free.

He said they wanted to ensure the status is maintained.

Goyal said monitoring cases of bird flu, even in countries declared as bird flu-free, is part of the efforts of the United States to help prevent a pandemic. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gov't men mark Black Heart Day on Feb. 14

DAVAO CITY—GOVernment workers have marked Feb. 14 as a national day of protest and the start of a coordinated move to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Jake Cardonia, secretary general of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), told reporters here they would also make public their grievances against Ms Arroyo's "anti-worker" policies on that day.

Cardonia said in this city, public sector workers would march to the regional office of the Department of Budget and Management.

Elsewhere, government employees would also march in what was dubbed the Black Heart Day.

Among the issues they would raise include the implementation of Executive Order 366 or the rationalization program for government employees.

Cardonia said the rationalization program is just another name for "mass layoff."

He said they would also demand that the government scrap its privatization program, grant the P3,000 across-the-board salary increase that government workers have been asking and Cost of Living Allowance (Cola).

Florante Ferraren, Courage chair for Southern Mindanao, said they have grown tired of the government's failure to respond to the needs of government workers.

Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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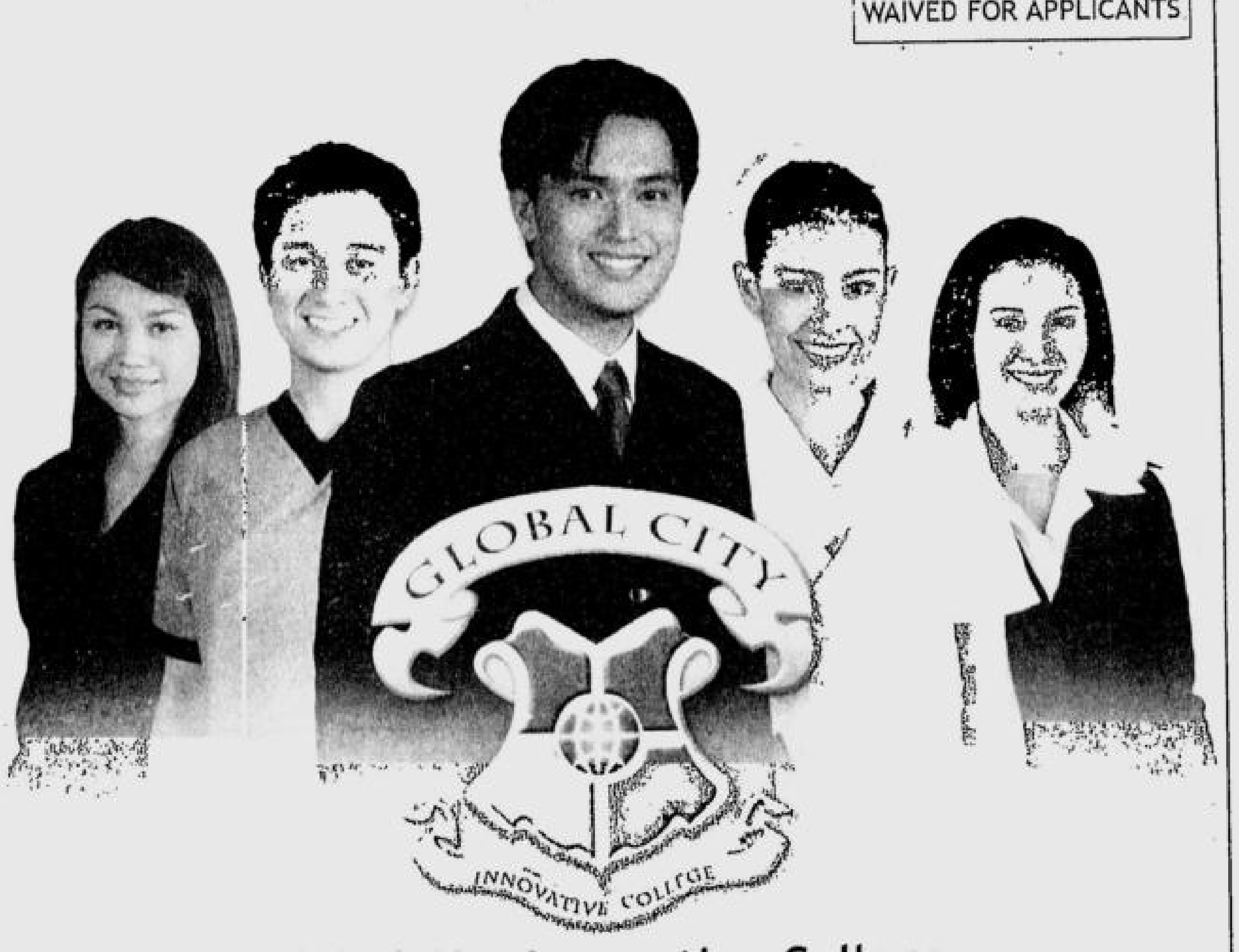

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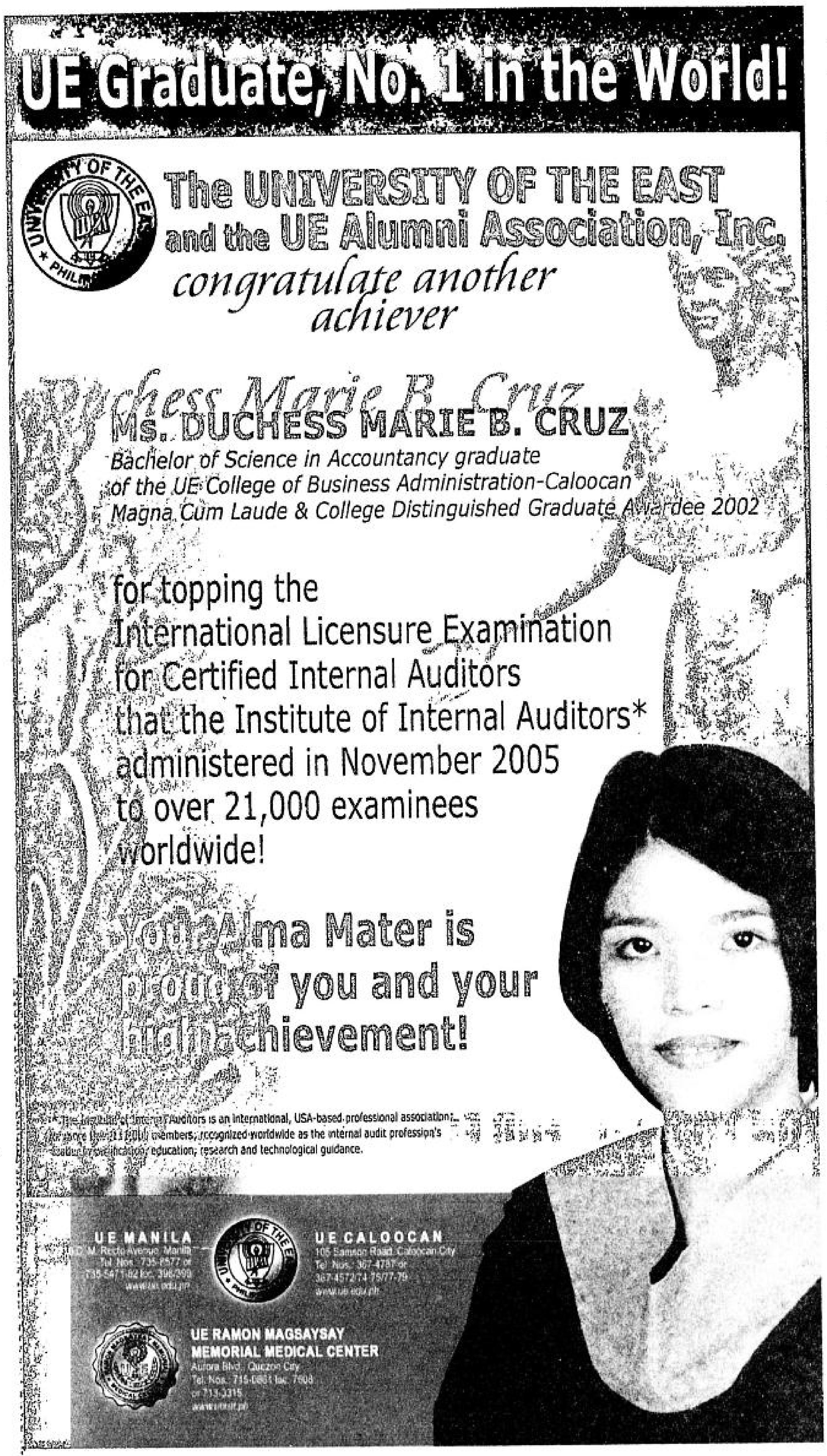

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INQUIRER Mindanao
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Ex-mujahideen tells his story

By Nash B. Maulana
Don Carlos, Bukidnon

ARANCES in the field of his new battle—progress for a cooperative of 300 Muslims, Christians and lumad. NASH MAULANA

HE COULD have taken the path to violence as did many other mujahideens.

But Junie Arances, 42, whose war exploits in Afghanistan could humble showy Abu Sayyaf leaders, chose to be productive, toiling in the fields with his followers, instead of turning to extortion and kidnapping.

Arances kept his story for years and it only recently did he agree to share it with the INQUIRER:

After returning from foreign lands in 1989, Arances became active in local peace-building efforts.

When Fidel V. Ramos became president in 1992 and opened peace negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), he was a close-in staffer of Nur Misuari while working on Malacañang approval of a 600-hectare Muslim settlement in Don Carlos town in Bukidnon. The late dictator Ferdinand Marcos had leased the area to the defunct National Development Corp.

"With past presidents having settlement programs for Christians in Mindanao, Ramos probably realized it was about time he had, too, for the Muslims, though one not entirely exclusive to them," Arances said.

For the hardened fighter who helped oust the Russians in Afghanistan, this was the only way his people could reap the fruits of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF.

A student of sociology at the Bukidnon State College, Arances was a devout Seventh Day Adventist. While doing research on Islam in 1984, he sought Ustadz Salamat Hashim out of thirst for Islam-related knowledge.

He was then 20 years old. The Pinule Library, run by Christian missionaries in Bukidnon, had provided him initial tools in understanding Islam.

Arances eventually converted and chose the Muslim name Omar bin Hassan.

He stayed in Manila for over a year and waited for the chance to meet Hashim abroad in 1984, but his mission proved futile. He went home to finish his sociology degree. That same year, he returned to Manila.

Arances joined the moderate Tableegh Reformist group of Sunni Muslims and was granted a scholarship by the World Assembly of Muslim Youth in 1986. It allowed him to pursue a post-graduate program on Luga (classic Arabic language of the Koran) at the state-run al-Jamiatul Imam Saud (King Saud University) in Riyadh.

After a year, he dropped out and was secretly recruited by other foreigners to join a group of "volunteer" Muslims to help mujahideens in Afghanistan fight the Marxist Kabul government. They were flown in a chartered Pakistan Air Lines flight to Lahore and were trained in Kashmir by "foreign mercenaries."

Among their trainers and lecturers on combat and firearms handling were US Marine Sgt. Willy Smith, whose name he would not forget, and Jan Mohamad, a Pakistani.

Arances was with four other Filipino Muslims during clashes in Kosh, Afghanistan. They stayed there for two weeks in the winter of 1989. They were the only Filipino Moros who share real stories of actual combat in modern times in a battle fought with America against another superpower, the Soviet Union.

(He declined to identify his other Filipino companions. Some of them are dead.)

At Kosh, they were harassed by an MI-14 Soviet attack helicopter. They dodged the attack until they were able to dig foxholes for cover. They used US-made anti-aircraft (ground-fired) missiles and British Stingers.

Unable to withstand the cold winter season there, Arances fell ill and returned to Kashmir with another group of volunteers under Amer Nurudin Khan, an Indian.

In Islamabad, Arances again met Smith emerging from Misuari's quarters and they briefly greeted each other.

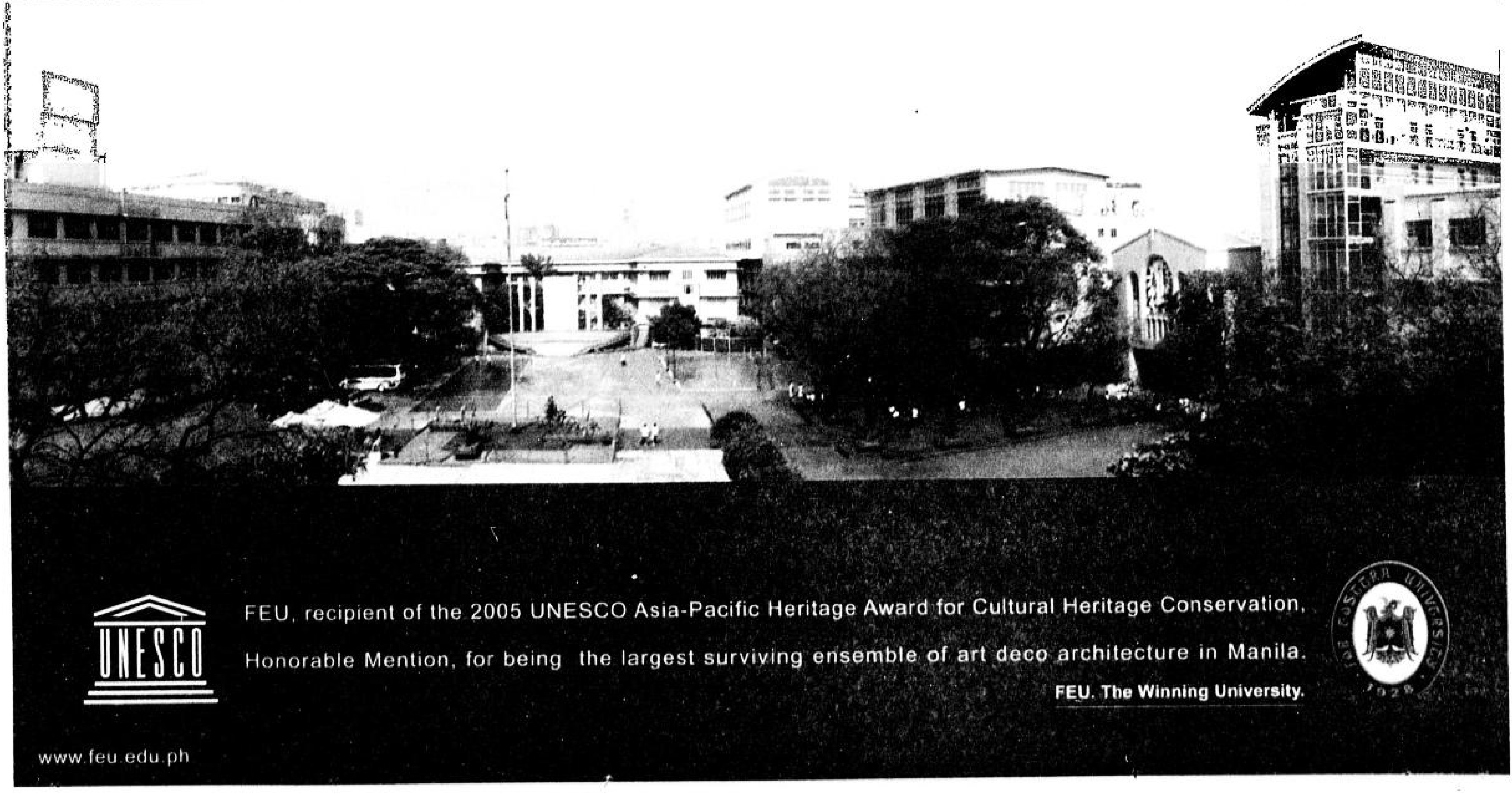
Arances returned to Saudi Arabia to continue his studies. But he was unable to finish Luga until he decided to return to the Philippines in 1989 and get married.

He led the formation of the Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma Multi-Purpose Farmers' Cooperative in Don Carlos, composed of Muslims, Christians and members of indigenous communities.

Today, Arances and 300 cooperative members have become some sort of a success story. They entered into a memorandum of agreement with Del Monte Pineapple Co. for the firm's new corporate operations. Fresh Fruits, a Middle East group of Arab exporters, provided capital.

It is hardwork for members of the cooperative, especially for Arances, to keep the venture profitable.

But for the former mujahideen, the fruit of labor is sweeter than the easy money that has lured many into criminality and terrorism.



A Landmark Victory

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GMA orders P17.5B in IRA shares released to LGUs

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—LOCAL GOVERNMENT units (LGUs) will finally get what they have been demanding for years—the release of their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) shares withheld for four years by the national government.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has issued an executive order mandating the release of P17.5 billion to the LGUs representing their share from the withheld IRA.

Executive Order No. 494, which was signed on Jan. 18, directs the finance, budget and local governments departments to "take necessary steps to ensure that (LGUs) get their respective shares from the P17.5 billion unprogrammed IRA in 2000 and 2001."

The order came as LGUs prepared to launch a nationwide signature campaign to amend the Constitution, a move that was seen as a means to keep Ms Arroyo in power until 2010 amid attempts to drive her out of office.

Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said the Department of Budget and Management was already preparing the Notice of Payment Schedule (NPS) to inform LGUs of their shares and the schedule of payment.

Arnaiz said the LGUs could either get lump sums or get the amount in installment for seven years.

But if the LGUs opt to get their shares in lump sum, he added, they must pay interest and other charges from the trustee bank designated by the government. The interest is between 27 to 28 percent.

This means LGUs will not get the entire withheld IRA because the interest will be deducted from it.

But if the LGU does not want to pay interest, Arnaiz said they can opt to get their shares in installment for seven years.

The national budget of 1999 and 2001 set aside the IRA shares for the Local Government Service Equalization Fund (LGSEF), a brainchild of jailed former President Joseph Estrada.

The Arroyo administration continued implementing the LGSEF in the reenacted budget of 2002.

The withheld IRA accumulated to P20 billion but the national government released only P2.5 billion to LGUs, leaving a balance of P17.5 billion.

The Supreme Court, however, declared as unconstitutional the move to withhold a portion of the IRA in its decision on the case filed by former Gov. Hermilando Mandanas of Batangas against former Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and former Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr.

The court ruled that withholding the IRA violated the Constitution that provided for a just share in national taxes for LGUs.

LYN RILLON

MAINTAINING GREATNESS
A caretaker removes dried leaves and other litter around the Rizal Shrine in Dapitan City where the national hero acquired his Talisay Estate in October 1892. Efforts to promote the shrine as a tourist destination are going on.

3-day tourism festival launched in Subic

By Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—A GRAND THREE-day tourism festival started here and in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone on Friday to push a sustainable and ecologically sound tourism and vacation haven in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dubbed the "Subik! Subik! Festival," the three-day event boasts of the best destinations and locations in the country for a wide range of adventure and ecotourism activities.

The festival also highlights the tourist attractions of Bataan, Olongapo City, Subic Bay Freeport and Zambales.

It will feature exhibits, familiarization tours in Bataan, Zambales, Olongapo City and the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, sports competitions, tourism seminars, a food display, a rave party and a grand parade and fireworks display. The activities end today (Sunday, Feb. 12).

"It is time that we be aware that there lies beautiful assets in our natural and human resources, for this brings forth appreciation, from which we shall develop an advocacy for the cause of ecotourism of the four areas," said George Lorenzana, chair of the Greater Subic Bay Tourism Bureau (GSBTB) and lead organizer of the event.

GSBTB is composed of various stakeholders from tourism council officials of the four areas to executives of major locators and business organizations.

"With strong advocacy in place, involvement is inevitable. This eventually drives us to develop and protect, be proud of and promote our destinations, our people and our culture to the world," Lorenzana said.

The events' highlight was a grand parade on Saturday that was participated in by Subic stakeholders.

ROUNDUP

P100M tobacco destroyed

CANDON CITY—Ilocos Sur, the country's top Virginia tobacco producing province, lost more than P100 million when heavy rains hit tobacco farms last week. The National Tobacco Administration said 1,652 of 5,825 hectares of tobacco farms were destroyed due to too much water from continuous rains on Jan. 25 and 26. Mayor Allen Singson approved a council resolution placing Candon in a state of calamity. The city government also set aside P2 million in financial assistance for local tobacco growers.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Support for disabled

THE PHILIPPINE Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled Inc. is preparing for the 2005 Apolinario Mabini Awards which draws attention to disabled persons, groups and institutions that have overcome physical and mental adversity to excel in a particular field of endeavor, according to a news release. Special education teachers and caregivers have also been trained to take better care of their wards, special children. Through the support of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., five training programs were held in Tagaytay City, Puerto Princesa City, Talavera, Nueva Ecija; Tuguegarao City and Tacloban City.

Psychology convention

THE SAMAHANG Mag-aaral ng Sikolohiyang Pilipino (Samasikofil) of Ateneo de Davao will host the 2006 Visayas-Mindanao Psychology Convention on Feb 17-19 with the theme "Beyond Family Borders Loving and Healing Our Broken Country." Topics include solo parenthood, family spirituality and empowerment and analysis of family violence, according to a news release. The group hopes to bring together several schools to an event that would raise consciousness and equip them to become women and men for others, said Mariel Andrea Gardiola, program head. For details, text or call 0920-8098406.

Kidnap leaders nabbed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the Regional Special Operations Group arrested two suspected leaders of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang in two separate operations. Chief Supt. Danilo, Mangila Central Mindanao police chief, said Hamid Sandigan, alias Jamid Sandigan, was arrested in Sitio Plantasyon, Barangay Alip in Datu Paglas, Maguindanao on Jan. 31, while George Mamantil was arrested in Barangay New Cebu, Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat on Feb. 2. Sandigan is a suspect in the 1997 kidnapping of trader Jesusa Ang of M'lang town, North Cotabato. Mamantil is a suspect in the 1997 kidnapping of Philippine National Oil Co. employees in Barangay Buteren, Datu Odin Sinsuat in Maguindanao, and also in the 2004 kidnapping of trader Zolla Cansi in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bayan member shot

VILLASIS, Pangasinan—Armed men shot and wounded an officer of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) while he was alighting from his jeep on Feb. 6. Mariano Sepnio, 45, Bayan vice chair in Pangasinan, was hit in the back and was in critical condition in a hospital. Witnesses said Sepnio was on his way to visit a friend in the town when motorcycle-riding men shot him. Police said Sepnio had been receiving death threats.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORMER congressman Mark Jimenez walks with Benedictine nuns from the monastery of the Mary Mother of Christ in Bukidnon where the businessman distributed cash to poor families. Jimenez was accompanied by members of the group Nagkakaisa sa Diyos, Nagkakaisang Pilipino which he founded. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
5th Floor., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 636-65-42, 633-93-43
Website: http://www/DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Central Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for :

PACKAGE NO.	DIVISION	SCHOOL	PROJECT	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Rizal	Rosario Ocampo Elementary School San Jose Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building	10,458,180.00
2	Rizal	Lipat-Lipat Elementary School Mambog Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building	11,514,000.00
3	Rizal	Tanay National High School Gen Licerio Geronimo Natl. High School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building Construction of Three (3) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building	10,079,718.85
4	Antipolo City	Sapinit Elementary School Inuman Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building	8,685,000.00
5	Quezon City	Placido del Mundo Elementary School San Gabriel Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	13,901,790.00
6	Quezon City	Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School Ismael Mathay Sr. High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	12,545,000.00
7	Quezon City	Novaliches High School San Francisco High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	12,545,164.05
8	Quezon City	Carlos Albert High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	6,755,000.00
9	Caloocan City	Gabriela Silang Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building	13,027,500 00
10	Caloocan City	Deparo Elementary School Camarin Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Phase II-Completion of Three (3) Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	8,685,000.00
11	Marikina City	Sto. Niño Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (15) Classroom School Building	6,948,000 00
12	Parañaque City	Parañaque Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	6,755,000.00
13	Las Piñas City	Pamplona Central Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building	10,900,900.55
14	Malabon Navotas	Tinajeros National High School Potrero High School	Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	13,052,097.85
15	Muntinlupa City	Muntinlupa Elementary School	Phase II - Completion of construction of 3 Storey School Building	6,595,977 65

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Location
Receipt from Prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 13, 2006 - February 20, 2006	BAC Secretariat, 5th Flr.,Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 14, 2006 - February 24, 2006	
Eligibility Screening	February 27, 2006 - March 2, 2006	
Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 6, 2006	
Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 6 to April 5, 2006	
Pre-Bid Conference	March 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Receipt and Opening of Bids (Package 1 to 8)	April 5, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	
Receipt and Opening of Bids (Package 9 to 15)	April 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat Office, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue electronic copy (CD) of Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 3,500.00** per package to the DepED Cashier. Plans and Bill of Quantities Forms will be issued in hard copies.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Package shall be rejected. Likewise, late bids shall be rejected.

The Department of Education assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR**
BAC Vice Chairperson

(PDI – February 12 & 19, 2006)

Pasig drug bust also netted baby, pregnant girl

From page A1

rested had been turned over to the custody of the DSWD Pasig City since Friday night.

Most were boys, with the average age running between 10 to 12 years old. The eldest was 17 and the youngest was the 4-month old infant.

There were also two pregnant girls between the ages of 16 and 17 and they were under the DSWD's custody, according to Ele.

"They were not customers. The children were being used as runners for the different stalls. They were exposed to the buying and selling of *shabu*. What happens when they grow up?" Ele said.

He would not say if the youngsters had tested positive for drugs.

He would only say that they took urine specimens from the boys aged 12 to 17 for drug tests.

Minors arrested for criminal offenses are tried by a juvenile court and usually given suspended sentences.

Teenage sex workers

Ele suspects the pregnant girls they arrested were made to work as sex workers to *shabu* customers, pointing to posters of nearly naked women plastered around the compound.

He said their office had given the social workers P3,000 for the dinner of the minors who had been turned over to the DSWD. But the money would not last long.

"Please ask the local government officials to help. They have not eaten," Ele told the INQUIRER.

The adults arrested, meanwhile, are staying in cramped facilities at the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame.

There are siblings among them, said Ele. Various charges are being prepared against them.

"Some were apprehended inside drug dens. Some were identified as pushers. Some were in possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia. There were a few who were drug traffickers and pushers and we have evidence for that," he said.

Ele had described their discovery of what seemed to be a *shabu* flea market an "unprecedented" operation, which he said had been going on for about a year.

He believed the community, which called the place "Sitio Mapayapa (Peaceful)" either tolerated the drug activity or was involved in maintaining it.

Heads roll

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the police to stamp out drug dens in Metro Manila, "whether they are in the slums or affluent neighborhoods," deal sternly with politicians and law enforcers involved in the trade.

"We must wield the consolidated power of all concerned agencies, the schools, the private sector and the church, to bear upon this challenge," Ms Arroyo said.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao described the drug bust as "incomprehensible" and immediately ordered the relief of precinct commander Senior Insp. Salvador de la Cruz and seven of his men.

Also relieved were six personnel of the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) of the Pasig City police station and six DEU personnel of the Eastern Police District (EPD). Other policemen will undergo drug testing, investigation and retraining.

"We will hit hard on criminals and protectors alike. The policemen in Pasig will be investigated and those found inept, incompetent and corrupt will be charged administratively, and dismissed immediately if found guilty," Lomibao said yesterday in a statement.

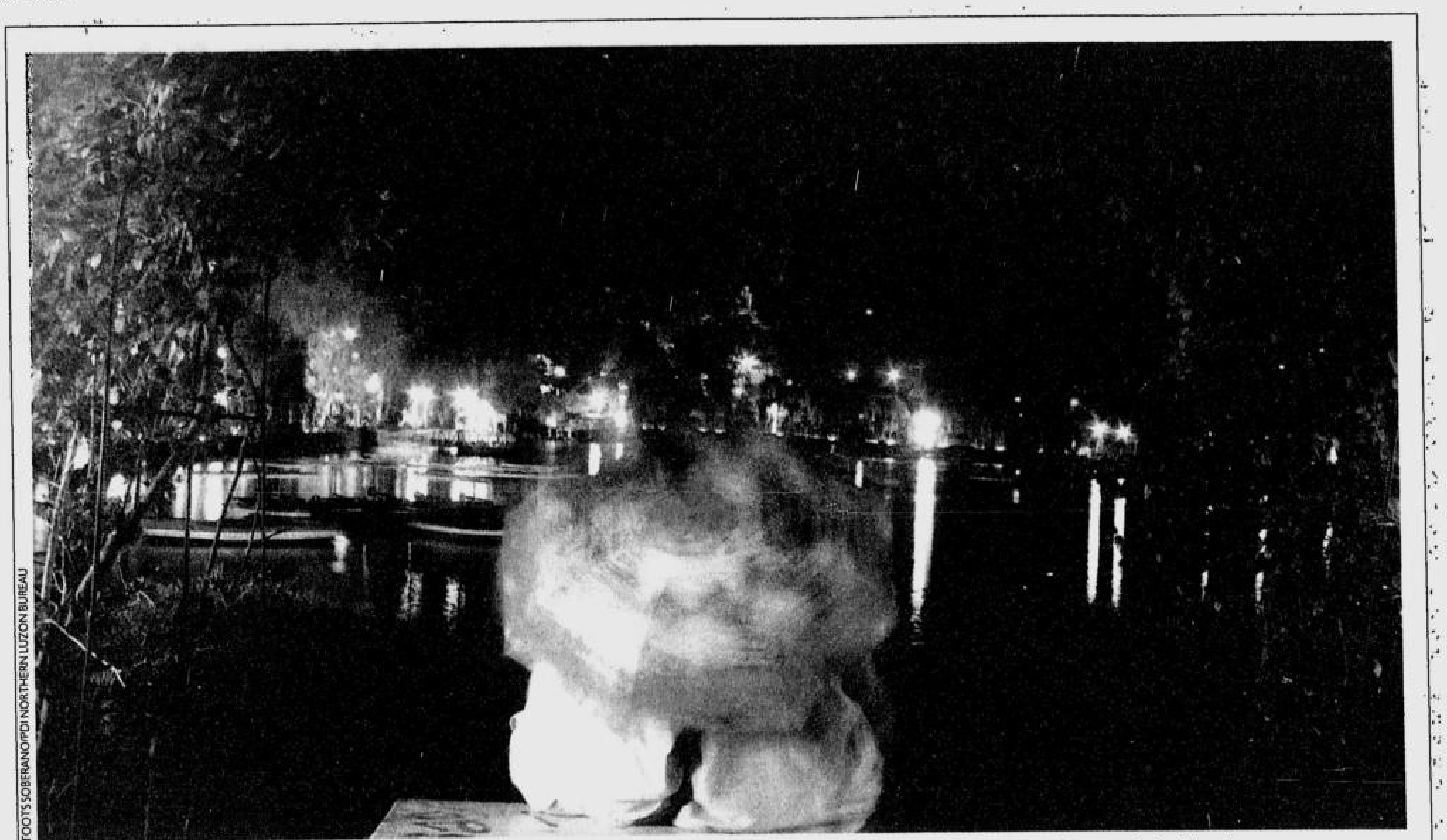
PNP National Capital Region Command Director Vidal Querol ordered Pasig police chief Senior Supt. Raul Medina to explain how the brazen drug trade could have gone on under their noses.

Querol also asked EPD head Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela to give a written explanation.

"By Monday everything should be on my table. Then I will proceed," Querol said, adding that he will hand down his final decision "sometime next week."

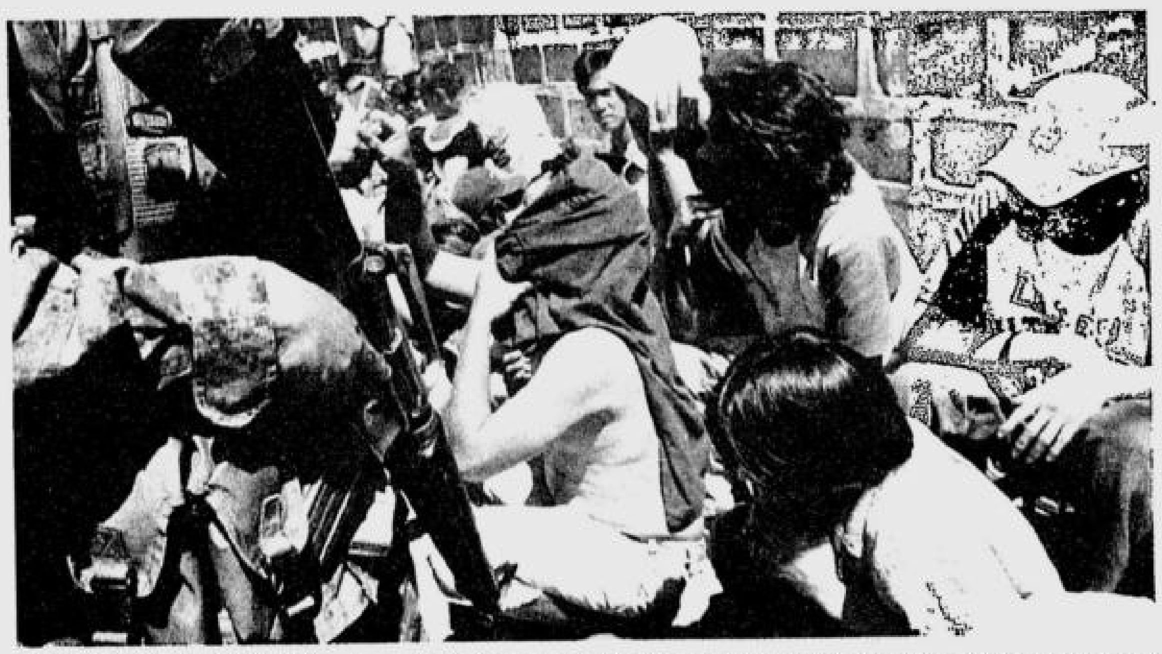
Querol told the INQUIRER yesterday that his decision on whether or not Medina would remain as Pasig City police chief will be up to the results of the investigation conducted by Valenzuela.

With Jocelyn Uy



A FLOWER FESTIVAL opened last week in Baguio City to a display of fireworks at Burnham Park that enveloped the cityscape with a mood of celebration.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU



SHABU FLEA MARKET: Fifty-nine minors were among the more than 300 rounded up in Pasig. JOAN BONDOC

UP scientists dispute Gore's . . .

From page A1

gineering earned at the University of Illinois.

Siringan, a professor on marine geology, holds a Ph D from Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Exaggerated

In his first visit to the country, Gore delivered a lecture on global warming at a forum hosted last Thursday by Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco.

The standing-room-only affair drew ranking politicians, business leaders and members of the diplomatic corps.

The former Vice President of the Clinton administration warned that up to two million Metro Manila residents may have to be evacuated from flooded communities as melting glaciers and the polar icecap raise sea levels worldwide.

Warning that the world will reach the "tipping point" toward an ecological catastrophe within the next 10 years, he urged international and local leaders to focus their efforts toward halting the phenomenon of global warming.

Doomsday scenarios

His computer-aided presentation earned a standing ovation.

"The problem with these exaggerated and very general pronouncements about environmental doomsday scenarios is that they distract us from the real local problems which we can really do something about," Arcilla said.

He conceded that global warming was "a serious threat to humanity, (but) it is certainly not in the terms that Gore presents."

As to Manila Bay overflowing, he noted that his peers at UP, like Siringan and Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo, along with their students, had conducted their own studies of the water level's rise.

Real story

"While it is true that global warming could contribute to the rise, this is only in the millimeters, but the centimeters' rise could be attributed more to heavy groundwater extraction which results in subsidence, which makes it appear that the sea is invading land," he explained.

"I am not saying that we should stop helping control greenhouse gas emissions, but very, very few really know the real story about flooding in Metro Manila," he said.

"We could cry all day about greenhouse gases but if we don't regulate carefully our use of groundwater, we could be flooding faster than whatever could come from global warming."

"DON'T just listen to Gore, listen to our own scientists," say critics of celebrity treatment for the former US vice president. ROGER MARGALLO

Reached by phone, Siringan observed: "We're falling over each other when it comes to foreign scientists. We don't listen to our very own. They have done more work but they are ignored."

He said this bias was evident in the hiring of expensive "foreign consultants" for projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

For the Camanava Flood Control Project, for example, the DPWH has tapped Japanese consultants who "earn in a month what Filipino scientists cannot earn in a year," said Siringan, who gets around P30,000 a month as a UP professor.

He said he shared Arcilla's "sentiments" about the Gore visit.

Listening to your own

"I am glad that former Vice President Al Gore visited Manila, but I am disturbed that we believe everything he says without filtering it through some scientific analysis," Arcilla said in his statement.

It's about time that the public—and the government—pay heed to "our own scientists, many of whom have sacrificed having a lucrative career abroad to study our own problems and propose solutions," he said.

"We do not have many scientists, but we do have a few good ones," Arcilla said, noting that as far as "credentials" were concerned, Gore "really does not have an advanced science degree, even if he is a good student of the environment."

"Let us listen to them (local scientists) also before we fall hook, line and sinker for foreigners," he said.

This Valentine's
fall in love even more...

An Evening of Romance
P850+
BUFFET DINNER PER PERSON
Dinner by the Poolside

Celebrate Valentines Day with an intimate buffet dinner by the poolside. A romantic live entertainment completes your experience. Bask in love's moonlit serenade at Holiday Inn Clark. And for the ladies, a long-stemmed rose to take home.

Lovers at 7th Heaven
P975+
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Spend a romantic evening with your special someone. Feast on great Churasco barbecue meats and superb wines. Experience gastronomic heaven at Rodizio, Holiday Inn's newest restaurant at the rooftop.

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Exclusively for 2bUI Readers: Check out 2bUI to find out how you may win a dinner for two at the Rodizio Brazilian Restaurant.

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Aussies play big sister to streetkids

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A GROUP OF STREET CHILDREN WAS practicing for a theater presentation when seven foreign young women walked into the Bahay Tuluyan (BT) shelter in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Suddenly, the kids' faces broke into wide smiles. Their eyes lit up as they welcomed the newcomers into the room, even cheering them on as the women posed for the INQUIRER photographer.

"*Ate ko 'yan* (That's my older sister)," one of the children, a girl with black hair and black eyes, said proudly, pointing at one of the foreigners—a green-eyed blonde.

The group of women were Australian volunteers who had decided to spend their summer vacation in the Philippines working with BT, a nongovernment organization formed in 1989 to help Filipino children in need of special protection.

The volunteers, who were scheduled to go back to their country a few days after the interview, were just as enthusiastic about their "little brothers and sisters."

"We just want to pack them all in our suitcases and take them back to Australia with us," Nikki Zingerle, a 22-year-old Bachelor of Arts student at La Trobe University, said, laughing.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT
10 Right
Education ????!!!

ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY: The streetkids at Bahay Tuluyan with their Australian 'ates.'

"I know this may sound clichéd, but we love them all and it's really hard to decide who among them is our favorite," she added.

When the young volunteers arrived in the country last Dec. 5, they did not know what to expect from the program.

Zingerle, Mary Blake, Melina Stewart, Georgie Garvan, Janelle Phillips, Sarah Hunt and Cassie Moran, all university students with ages ranging from 18 to 23, had applied for admission to the Australian Volunteers International (AVI) program for different reasons: One wanted to experience living in a third world country, some wanted to work in the development field, while the others simply wanted to volunteer.

The seven, however, have one thing in common: An interest in children.

"We had a basic outline of what we would be doing, but we learned a lot more during the project itself," Hunt, 21, a Bachelor of Arts student at the University of Melbourne, said.

A few days after their arrival in Manila, they were asked to live for a few days with an urban poor family, in order to learn about Filipino culture.

"We were amazed at how some of the families of five or six could live in spaces the length of our own bodies," Garvan, a social work student at the University of New South Wales, said.

"However, we were able to adjust to their lifestyle quickly because the families were so welcoming and did everything to make us feel comfortable," she recalled with a smile.

After bonding with their foster families, the volunteers began working with the streetchildren of BT.

BT development manager and AVI project coordinator Catherine Scerri said that they have about 80 children in their shelters in Sta. Mesa; Victoria, Laguna; and San Antonio, Quezon.

"Because of these kids, many of us have changed direction in our lives," Hunt said, adding that most of the volunteers now want to work with children and development organizations.

"We realized through our experiences with the Filipino streetchildren that there is a common thread of humanity that runs through all of us," Hunt said.

"We may be Australian, we may not speak Tagalog, but we can all make that connection—whether it be a smile, or a hug, or just being able to share a game with the children," she added.

True enough, the streetchildren's unabashed display of happiness and adoration toward their Australian "*ates*" only showed that the young volunteers had succeeded in touching the lives of the Filipino kids they love and care for.

Makati judge has soft spot for children

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SHE HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE FEARless judge who delivered swift justice to the victims in last year's Valentine's Day bombing in Makati.

One of those wounded in the bombing incident was a child and family court Judge Marissa Macaraig Guillen, of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 60, has a soft spot for kids.

"I am a mother, on top of it all. That's the reason why I enjoy being in the family court, because it puts me in touch with children. And I think that gives me the most satisfaction: Being able to really protect children's rights," said the 48-year-old judge who is a mother to three teenagers.

JUDGE GUILLEN: "I'm the least judgmental person out of the courtroom."

In her five years of presiding over a family court, Guillen has handled numerous cases involving minors as either complainants or defendants.

TALES OF THE CITY

Last year, she faced her biggest case: The trial of three terror suspects tagged in the Feb. 14, 2005 bus bombing, an attack that killed four persons and injured at least 60 others.

But the University of the Philippines law graduate lived up to challenge, handing down a decision on Oct. 28 last year, just seven months after the filing of the case, one of shortest trials yet of a high-profile case.

In what may go down in Philippine history as a landmark case in the fight against international terrorism, Guillen meted out the death penalty to confessed Abu Sayyaf members Gamal Baharan and Angelo Trinidad, and Indon explosives expert Rohmat Abdurrohim, an alleged member of the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah.

Given her dedication to her profession, (she was the recipient of the 2005 Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos Award for Judicial Excellence), her confession that she never wanted to be a lawyer comes as a surprise. As a child, she said she was interested in the arts, like most of her siblings who are now in media and the publishing industry.

Guillen's late father, Catalino Macaraig Jr., however, focused on her exceptional abstract reasoning and verbal skills and groomed her to become a lawyer, she told the INQUIRER. Macaraig had served as deputy justice minister under the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and as executive secretary to President Corazon Aquino after Edsa I.

Given her exemplary performance on the bench, Guillen's case is proof that fathers know best.

National Steel Corporation

FOR BIDDING

	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
A.	Retired Assets at Export Bodega	255 Line Items
B.	Machineries at Machine Shop	6 Units
C.	Computer Servers	1 Lot
D.	Survey Instruments	1 Lot
E.	Various Items	11 Line Items
F.	Clinic Instruments, Equipment & Fixtures	1 Lot

NOTES:
1. Items are located and can be inspected at the former National Steel Corporation Iligan Plant, Suarez, Iligan City c/o Mr. Pat Capuno Tel. No. (063) 492-2881 to 82.
2. Interested parties may inquire at the Office of the Liquidator at Tel. No. 752-4495 to 98 c/o Mr. Jess Garcia, Mr. Larry de Lara, or Ms. Ara Agliam. Detailed list of items for bidding may be secured from this office.
3. Deadline for submission of offer is on March 3, 2006 at 2PM.
4. The NSC Liquidator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to accept such proposals as may be considered most advantageous to its interest.

(PDI--Feb. 12 & 19, 2006)

METRO BRIEFS

Holiday in Parañaque

TOMORROW is a holiday in Parañaque City. President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Proclamation 991, has declared Monday a special nonworking holiday in the city in celebration of its eighth cityhood anniversary. Nelson Lacambra, spokesperson of Mayor Florencio Bernabe, said Masses will be celebrated in the city's 16 barangays.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Love musical

A DIFFERENT kind of musical will unfold on Feb. 15 at the UP Theater in the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City. The post-Valentine's event, a musical on love and social justice, will be staged by the AkSa Artists' Circle of the progressive group Aksyon Sambayanan. Proceeds will be used to fund projects in poor communities this year. Special guests include actors Jestoni Alarcon, Dan Fernandez, Monsour del Rosario, Ian Veneracion and Daniel Fernando.

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 01-08-2006

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder

Name of Project: Three (3) lots Private Security Agency Services

Lot	Location/Branch	Number Of Guards	Approved Budget
1	Airport Casino Filipino Casino Filipino-Heritage	74 (SG-56 / LG-18) 50 (SG-38 / LG-12)	Forty Two Million Nine Hundred Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Two Pesos & 96/100 (P 42,904,872.96)
2	Casino Filipino - Hyatt Casino Filipino - Silahis	42 (SG-30 / LG-12) 46 (SG-40 / LG-6)	Thirty Million Four Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen Pesos & 52/100 (P 30,446,619 52)
3	Casino Filipino - Pavilion Corporate Security Unit	61 (SG-43 / LG-18) 25 (SG-25 / LG-0)	Twenty Nine Million Seven Hundred Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred Five Pesos & 44/100 (P 29,756,605.44)

NOTE: Bidders should bid for one (1) lot only.
Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Mla., Tel. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the Bid Documents available for issuance from February 2, 2006 to February 27, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Twenty One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two Pesos & 43/100 (Php 21,452.43) for Lot 1, Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Four Pesos & 31/100 (Php 15,224.31) for Lot 2 and Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight Pesos & 30/100 (Php 14,878.30).* In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows

Activities	Schedule
Pre-Bid Conference	February 15, 2006 (3pm)
Submission of Bids	February 28, 2006 (2pm)
Opening of Bids	February 28, 2006 (2pm onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidders and a third party, including any act which restricts suppresses or nullifies or tend to restrict, suppress or nullify competition or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (RA 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department

(Sgd.) RENE C. FIGUEROA
Chairperson, BAC 2

(PDI- Feb 5 & 12, 2006)

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06 May (RCBC)

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	Telefax	536-0287, 523-4295
	Email	Vice-Dean Marissa G. Marasigan marasiganm@dlsu.edu.ph
Ortigas Campus at La Salle Greenhills	Direct Line (632)	727-3750
	Trunklines	721-2000, locs. 378 and 377
	Telefax	727-3759
	Email	Vice-Dean Pia T. Manalastas manalastasp@dlsu.edu.ph
RCBC Campus	Direct Line (632)	753-4616
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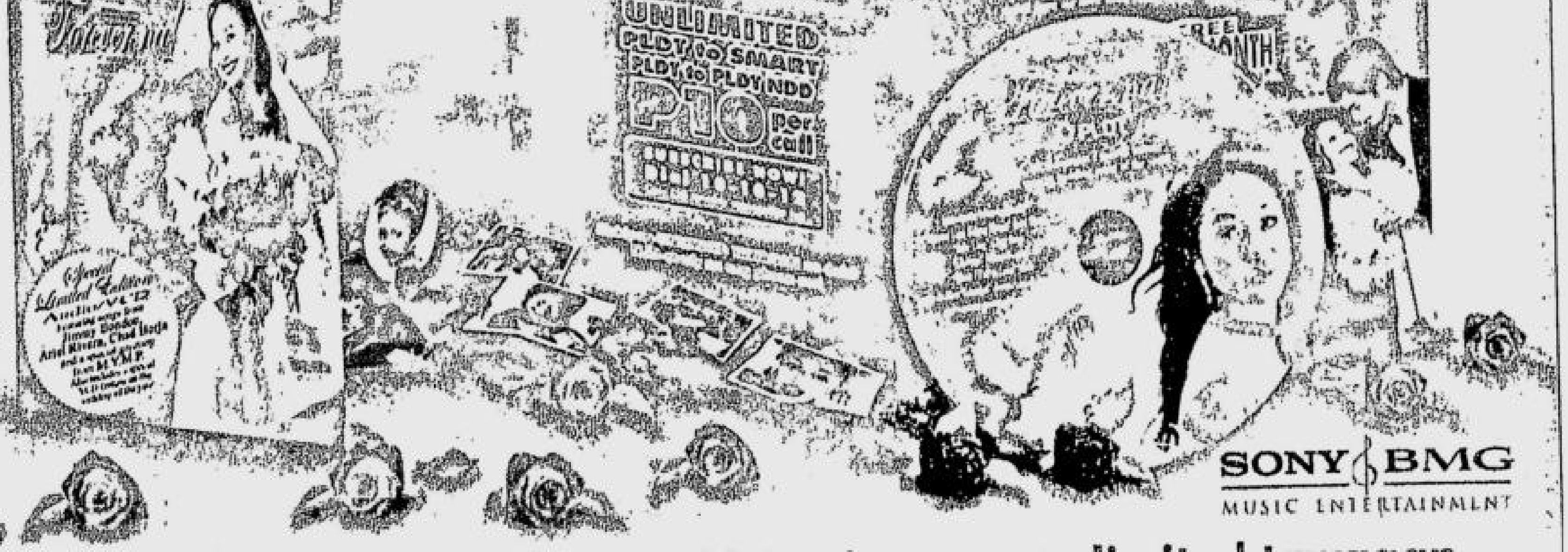

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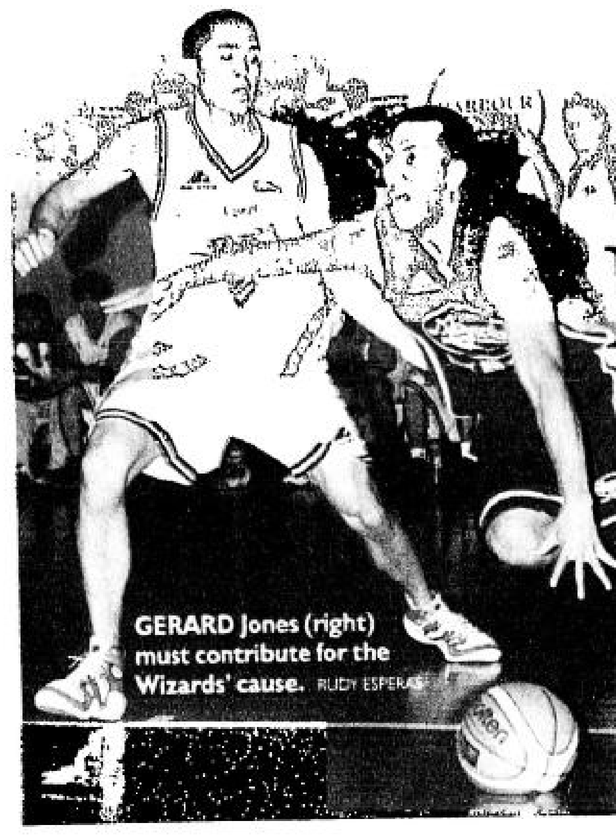


GERARD Jones (right) must contribute for the Wizards' cause. RUDY ESPERAS

Painters seek clincher today

GAME TODAY *(San Andres Gym)*
3:30 p.m.—Magnolia vs Rain or Shine (Game 4 Finals)

RAIN OR SHINE REMAINS CONFIDENT WHEN the Elasto Painters shoot for the PBL Heroes Cup title anew against the Magnolia Wizards today at the San Andres Gym.

"The advantage is still ours. We're still twice to beat," said coach Caloy Garcia after the Painters failed to sweep the finals last Thursday.

The Wizards will try to level the series in Game 4 of the best-of-five contest at 3:30 p.m.

"We'll do our best to survive everyday," said Magnolia coach Koy Banal. "It's difficult, but it's possible (to win the title). I want the team to lighten up and not be burdened by the thought of winning it."

The Wizards managed to stay alive in Game 3 with a convincing 80-70 win behind Arwind Santos and Kim Valenzuela. But Banal believes a few more adjustments are in order for the Wizards to forge a rubber match.

"We have to make good decisions in our shot selection," said Banal. "Rain or Shine has a full house, anyone can step up offensively. Their players are also using their experience."

Garcia, meanwhile, expects his wards to regain their intensity.

"They played minus the fire and passion they showed in the two games of the series," he noted.

Among the disappointments was Junjun Cabatu, who produced only nine points in Game 3 after averaging a sensational 20.5 points in the finals.

Most Valuable Player Jojo Tangkay also lost his offensive touch, firing only five points.

It was the Wizards who got a stronger team performance in Game 3, with Jason Misolas, Mark Isip and Gerard Jones providing a huge lift.

The Wizards bench outscored the Painters, 48-32, as they finished with a better field goal clip

After a 70-68 overtime triumph in Game 1, the Painters moved within a win from claiming their second straight title and seventh overall with a 75-73 victory in Game 2. The Wizards, however, averted a sweep.

Jasmine W. Payo

Bulls eye 3-0 edge vs Giants

THE PUREFOODS CHUNKEE GIANTS ARE NO strangers to losing two games in a row during a championship series.

GAME TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
5:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull Barako
Game 1—Red Bull d. Purefoods, 107-102 OT
Game 2—Red Bull d. Purefoods, 98-84

And so the Giants will try to duplicate against Red Bull a feat they pulled off four seasons ago starting in Game 3 of the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference Finals today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Gregorio and the Giants were also in a 0-2 pit during their best-of-seven championship series with the Alaska Aces before Purefoods strung up four victories to capture the 2002 Governors Cup crown.

"We can rewrite history again, it can be done," said Gregorio, who won his first PBA title on his rookie year in 2002. "I feel like a rookie coach again. I paid my dues in the first two games. We'll make the necessary adjustments this time," he added.

But the Giants are in an entirely different situation going into the third game of the best-of-seven series at 5:45 p.m. at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The 2002 Alaska squad which Purefoods stunned was laden with young Turks and rookies after the departure of Johnny Abarrientos, Bong Hawkins, Kenneth Duremdes, Jojo Lastimosa and Poch Juinio.

Now, the Giants are up against a Red Bull squad with championship experience and armed with a never-say-die mentality unparalleled in the league.

"It's what you call 'Red Bull mentality' and it was molded through time," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who still has Lordy Tugade, Junthy Valenzuela, Mick Pennisi and Jimwell Torion after winning two championships in the 2001 and 2002 Commissioner's Cup.

But Guiao remains wary of the Giants.

"It's not the 2-0 or even the 3-0. Once they find the right adjustment, they could get things going and even beat us," said Guiao. "I'm sure they'll try something else in our next game."

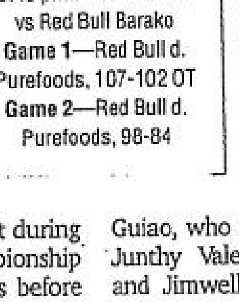
Rico Villanueva, a top contender for the best player of the conference award and Finals MVP, Tugade, Valenzuela and rookie Larry Fonacier have been combining well with James Penny.

On the other hand, the Giants have been Marquin Chandler-dependent, particularly at crunchtime when Kerby Raymundo, Roger Yap and James Yap should be giving their import an extra hand.

June Navarro

Pumaren named new TNT coach

By June Navarro



PUMAREN

AFTER PAINSTAKingly evaluating their options, the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals have finally decided to tap Derrick Pumaren as new head coach.

An INQUIRER source said Puma-ren was elevated from assistant coach-consultant to chief mentor following Joel Banal's decision to step down.

Banal had steered the Phone Pals to their first championship in the 2003 All-Filipino Cup and led them to a runner-up finish twice.

The Talk 'N Text management is expected to make the formal announcement about Pumaren's takeover before today's Game 3 of the Red Bull-Purefoods PBA Fiesta Conference Finals series at the Cuneta Astrodome.

A Talk 'N Text insider said Pumaren, who called the shots for the FedEx Express from 2002-2003, was offered a two-year pact with corresponding increases and bonuses on his monthly salary.

Besides Pumaren, multi-titled coach Chot Reyes was also considered for the Talk 'N Text coaching portfolio. Reyes, however, quashed speculations he is contemplating leaving the San Miguel Group for another organization in the PBA.

Reyes said his commitment to the national basketball training pool remains his top priority.

"Amid all the talks surrounding my being considered for another team's coaching job, I would like to affirm my commitment to the San Miguel organization," Reyes said.

Reyes took a leave of absence from the Coca-Cola Tigers last year to concentrate on his appointment as RP coach by the PBA Board of Governors and commissioner Noli Eala.

When Banal stepped down as head coach of Talk 'N Text last week, Reyes' name came out in the papers as among those being considered by the Phone Pals management for the job.

"The Chair (Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.) and Mr. Ramon Ang (SMC president) have treated me very well and have given me no reason to go anywhere," said Reyes in a short statement.

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West Visayas retains Prisaa championship

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—Western Visayas captured the women's volleyball title and swept taekwondo Saturday to cap its successful defense of the overall championship in the Private Schools Athletic Association (Prisaa) National Games here.

	G	S	B
W. Visayas	71	75	61
S. Mindanao	61	52	50
C. Visayas	47	30	56
S. Tagalog	33	40	30
Ilocos	26	29	20
NCR-North	10	0	0
Bicol	7	22	7
NCR-South	6	4	1
C. Luzon	3	7	27
C. Mindanao	1	4	3
W. Mindanao	1	2	16
Cag. Valley	1	1	8
Caraga	0	1	1
N. Mindanao	0	0	4
E. Visayas	0	0	1
ARMM	0	0	0

Nerissa Bautista of the University of San Agustin in Iloilo was named Most Valuable Player and best attacker as West Visayas beat Southern Mindanao in their volleyball showdown while Miguel Arsenio and Catherine Samonte of Bacolod City emerged men's and women's taekwondo champions, respectively.

West Visayas finished with 71 gold, 75 silver and 61 bronze medals while Southern Mindanao wound up with a gold-silver-bronze output of 61-52-50.

Central Visayas landed third with 47 golds, 30 silvers and 56 bronzes while Southern Tagalog was fourth with 33-40-27. Host Ilocos was fifth with 26-29-20.

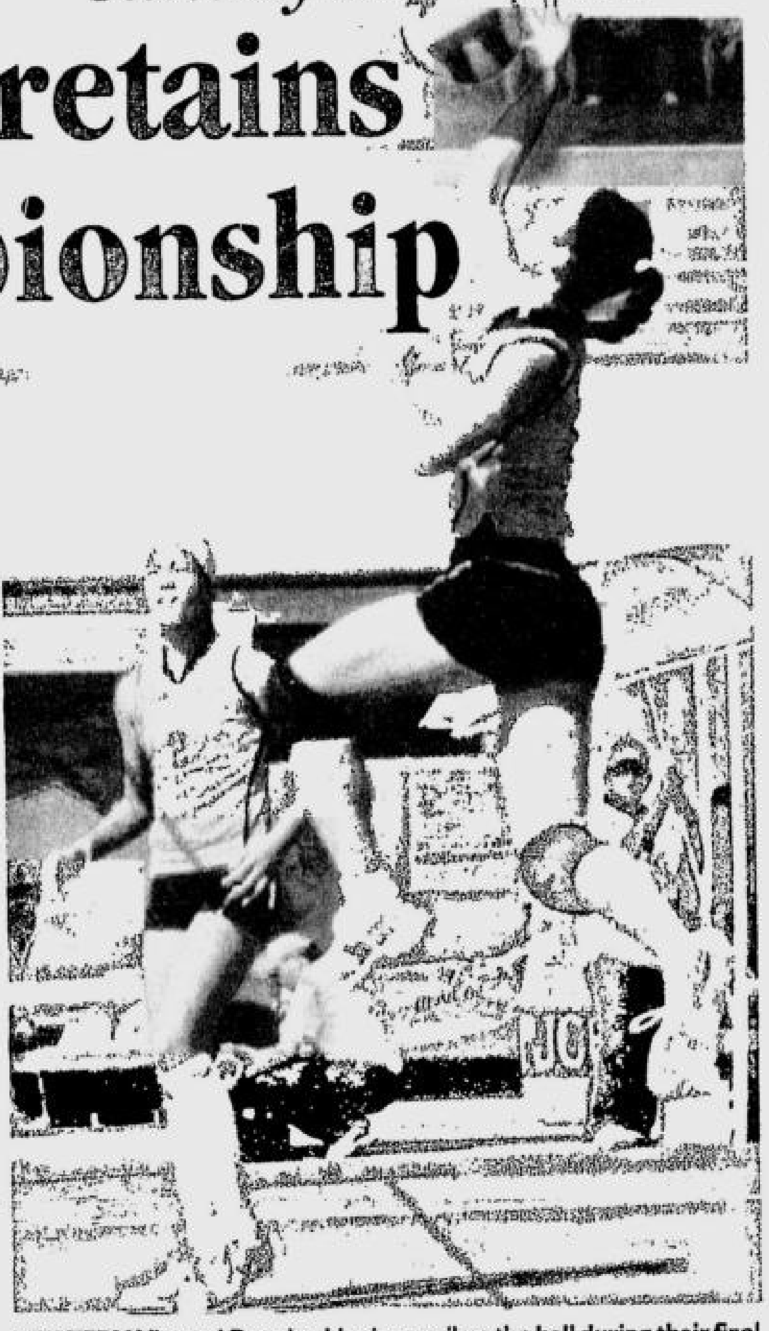
The WV delegation earlier bagged the crown in women's badminton, women's athletics, women's swimming and sepak takraw.

Fr. Emil Jaruda, delegation head of Western Visayas, said the region was aiming for a grand slam next year when it hosts the Prisaa national games. He said the region's back-to-back win was a "pleasant surprise" because it was only last year when it rejoined the Prisaa after it was revived in 2001.

Southern Mindanao, whose players mostly came from the University of Mindanao, drubbed Bicol in women's softball (12-0) and men's baseball (8-2).

The region also shone in athletics and swimming events.

Cecil Rule of the Southern Mindanao's softball team was named best pitcher while Dionisia Amaguen was best shortstop. Both are from the University of Mindanao.



WESTERN Visayas' Danelyn Liquigan spikes the ball during their final game against Southern Mindanao. Western Visayas won. RAY B. ZAMBRANO

PSC wants Nationals to be GSIS members

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CAN NATIONAL ATHLETES BE members of the Government Service Insurance Service?

With lifetime pension and housing plan in mind, the Philippine Olympic Committee will try to find out whether that idea is feasible to secure the future of the national athletes when they retire.

POC vice president, Rep. Monico Puentevella has volunteered to broker talks among the POC, GSIS and the Philippine Sports Commission, which will act as the athletes' employer under the plan.

"I don't see why GSIS won't cooperate," Puentevella told the INQUIRER. "This is a perfect move to ensure the future of the national athletes after their careers are over."

But there's one possible hindrance, according to PSC executive director Guillermo Iroy.

Iroy said the GSIS, like its counterpart in the private sector, the Social Security System, only extends membership to employees with regular contributions, something that can't be said of the national athletes who are in the PSC payroll only when they are preparing for competitions abroad.

"We must look at the charter of the GSIS first," said Iroy. "One requirement is that you must be a government employee regularly contributing to the fund."

The PSC official said it's the reason enlisted Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel are not GSIS members.

Iroy added it is also the main problem bugging House Bill 9064, which seeks pension and housing privileges for the national athletes. Puentevella said he can arrange a meeting with GSIS president Winston Garcia to facilitate the novel proposal.

No go for Cuban boxing coach

CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO THE Philippines Jorge Rey Jimenez has formally informed the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines that Raul Fernandez Liranza would not be able to return and train the country's finest amateur boxers for the Doha Asian Games and the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Jimenez explained that Liranza, credited for helping Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco win the silver medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, has been promoted as head coach of the famed Cuban national boxing team.

Jimenez apologized for the unexpected development in a letter to ABAP president Manny T. Lopez.

Being considered as replacements are Julian Gonzales Cedeno, Julio Mena Torres, Pedro Luis Benitez and Sarbellio Fuentes Rodriguez.

PNOC
The Energy Company

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF A FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR THE PRIVATIZATION OF PNOC SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT CORPORATION THROUGH NEGOTIATED BIDDING

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has authorized the privatization of PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC), a company engaged in shipping/tankering of petroleum products.

PSTC is now inviting prospective Financial Advisors to advise, guide and assist in the design, planning, preparation and implementation of the program for the privatization of PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation.

Prospective financial advisors who meet the following criteria may secure application forms for pre-qualification:

- has relevant experience as financial advisor in the shipping and maritime sector;
- has advised governments on privatizations;
- if a foreign firm, with office in the Philippines or within Asia and willing to deploy a dedicated team of shipping/maritime experts in the country

Qualified parties may secure pre-qualification forms starting on February 13, 2006 during regular office hours from PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation Privatization Committee Secretariat at the 1st Floor, Building 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Deadline for submission of accomplished forms to the same office will be on March 15, 2006 at 12:00 noon

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Celia R. Tagaro (PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation Privatization Committee Secretariat) at No. (632) 8401442 and Tel/fax no (632) 8401441

The PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid to annul the bidding process or to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd) EDGARDO M. DEL FONSO
Director, PNOC and
Chairman, PNOC-Shipping
and Transport Corporation
Privatization Committee

(PDI – Feb 12, 2006)

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City, Philippines

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Supply and delivery of Book Bags for High School Students

Date January 27, 2006
Loan No.: 1654-PHI, Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)
IFB No.: ADB-BB-SEDIP-2006

1. The Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the "ADB Business Opportunities" issued on December 20, 2005.
2. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for the Supply and Delivery of Book Bags for High School Students
3. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of the following:
    - 2.1 Lot 1. Book Bags for Zone 1: 92,317 pieces
    - 2.2 Lot 2: Book Bags for Zone 2: 74,340 pieces
    - 2.3 Lot 3: Book Bags for Zone 3: 337,094 pieces
    - 2.4 Lot 4: Book Bags for Zone 4: 288,573 pieces
4. International Competitive Bidding (ICB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage, One Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from DepED and inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting **February 6, 2006** at the Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, Philippines, at Tel. Nos. (632) 636-6543/633-9343 or at Fax No (632)635-6542. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org.
6. The Bidding Documents in the English language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders to the address given in paragraph 5 upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 3,000.00. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, manager's check, or certified check
7. Bids must be delivered to Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines at or before 10:00 a.m. on **April 7, 2006**. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2.0% of the total bid amount, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the given address, time and date
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **February 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at the same address indicated in paragraph 7
9. The DepEd reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract(s) without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or nonconformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid
10. The Department of Education will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids

(Sgd.) ATTY. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
Assistant Secretary and Chairman,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – February 5 & 12, 2006)

Nuggets snap Mavs' streak

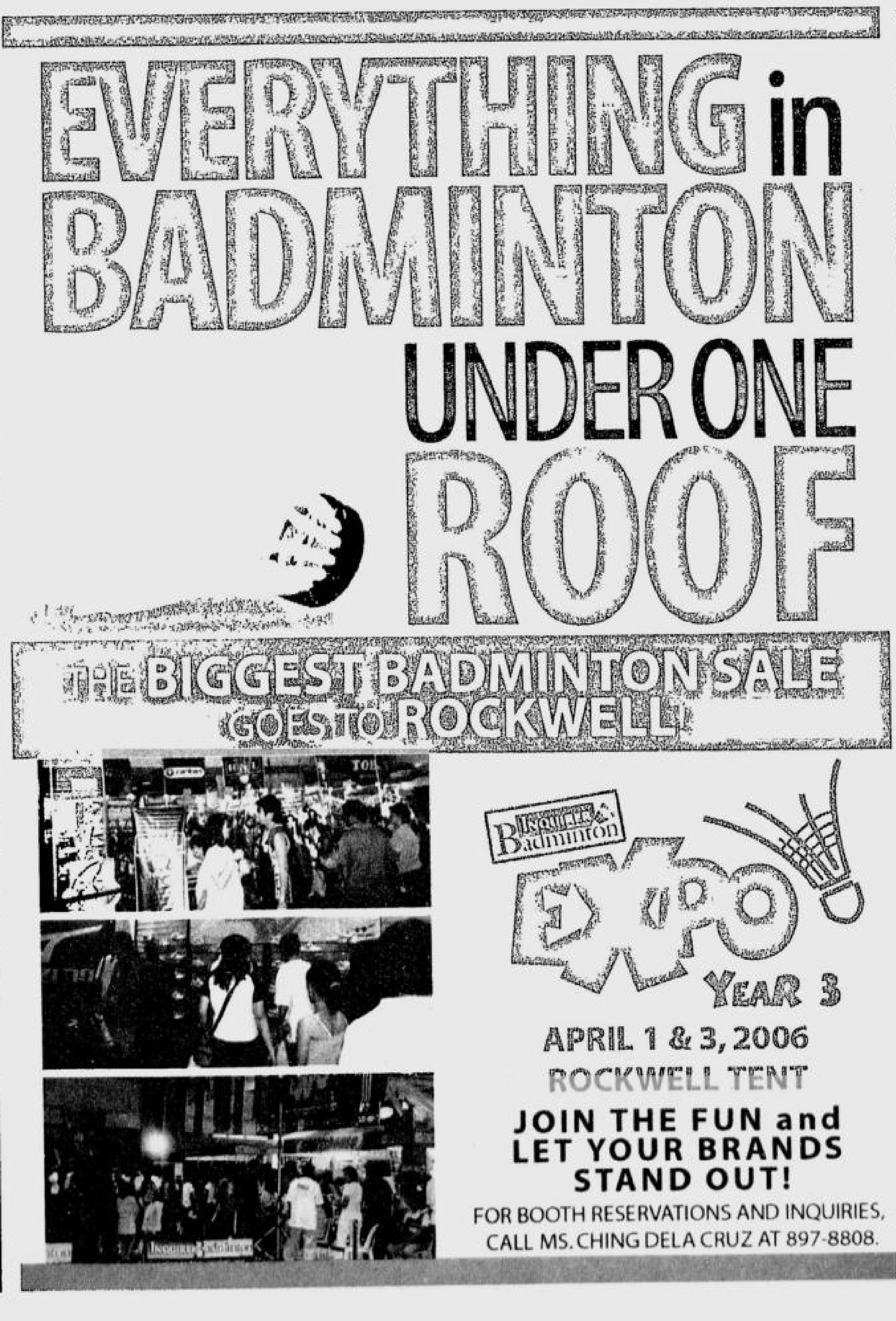
DENVER, COLORADO—KENYON MARTIN scored a season-high 34 points here Friday as the Denver Nuggets posted a 113-104 victory over Dallas and ended the Mavericks' 13-game National Basketball Association winning streak.

Martin had his best game of the season, making 14-of-18 shots and grabbing nine rebounds in 37 dominant minutes. He fell one point shy of matching his career high. The Nuggets had lost six of their last seven games.

COMPLETE RESULTS: Washington 101, Cleveland 89; Detroit 84, Orlando 73; Boston 115, Portland 83; San Antonio 83, New Jersey 73; Toronto 87, Charlotte 73; Indiana 107, Golden State 95 N.O.; Oklahoma City 111, NY Knicks 100; Utah 94, Minnesota 80; Phoenix 112, Sacramento 104; Seattle 99, Atlanta 91; Denver 113, Dallas 104; LA Clippers 91, Memphis 87.

CONGRATULATIONS!
AIR 21
EXPRESS

THIRD PLACE: Air 21 Express, with team owner Bert Lina and wife Sylvia, celebrate after beating Barangay Ginebra in their battle for third place in the PBA. AUGUST DELA CRUZ



Woods learning center

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—Tiger Woods called it the best day of his career, and he never even hit a shot.

Instead of putting a golf club in his hand, he gripped an oversized pair of scissors and cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open his $25 million (euro20.9 million) Tiger Woods Learning Center, aimed at helping children find their way.

At the end of an hour-long ceremony that featured former President Clinton and Maria Shriver, the wife of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. City officials thanked Woods for bringing the learning center to his old neighborhood, then unveiled a street sign: Tiger Woods Way. "This is bigger than golf," said Woods. "This is bigger than anything I've done on the golf course. Because we will be able to shape lives."

Stadler up in JW Classic

PERTH, AUSTRALIA—American Kevin Stadler eagled the last hole of the day to regain control of the $2.1 million Johnnie Walker Classic Saturday, wresting a two-stroke overnight lead from Korean KJ Choi. Stadler finished the round with a 6-under par 66 to be two-shots clear of Choi and Australian Richard Green, both 15-under for the tournament after the third round. AFP

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MARCH 4 - 5 : P 500, P 350, P 250, P 150, P 20

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'3-peat' for Gerard-JR in pro-am

By Jong Arcano

SILANG, CAVITE—GERARD CANTADA AND JR Tanpinco have become too comfortable playing the one-ball twosome format together that nothing seems to scare them anymore—not even an imposing four-stroke deficit with just eight holes to go—in their bid for glory.

The wide-bodied Cantada and Tanpinco won the Konica Minolta Pro-Am for the third straight time yesterday, showing a lot of tenacity and getting a little luck to deny Richard Abaring and Marvin Dumandan after a torrid shoot-out at the Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

The Cantada-Tanpinco tandem rallied with a 74 for a 304 total, finishing three strokes clear of Abaring and Dumandan, who collapsed coming home for a 79 in the P1.7 million event presented by Bert Bravo's U-Bix Corp. and Konica Minolta Technologies of Japan.

The Abaring-Dumandan duo had the title for the taking until their cohesive play disintegrated in the face of a searing comeback by the defending champions, who trailed by four after the 10th hole.

Tanpinco drove the par-4 15th green to set up a two-putt birdie and cap a rally that gave his partnership with Cantada the lead before Dumandan gave it all away on the next hole, the short par-3 17th.

Dumandan, a member of the 2005 SEA Games champion team, skulled his tee shot using a 56-degree wedge and found the hazard at the back of the green in a sorry miscue which sealed his team's fate.

UBIX Chair Edgardo Bravo (left) and Konica Minolta Gen. Manager Tadahiko Sumitani congratulates Gerald Cantada and JR Tanpinco after winning the Konica Minolta Golf Championship held at the Riviera Golf Club in Cavite. ERIK ARAZAS

Lito Rempojo and Gene Bondoc settled for fourth at 310 after a 77 while Juvic Pagunsan, playing his first full professional event on local soil, watched his amateur partner Dennis Canoy sink a long par-saver on the 18th to salvage fourth place at 78-312.

Cantada, a teaching pro at Wack Wack, went home with a P234,940 paycheck while Tanpinco got more than P50,000 worth of merchandise.

The partnership is in peril, however, as Tanpinco is preparing to attend the San Diego Golf Academy in the United States this coming July.

"I'm not too sure if we can play together again next year," said Tanpinco.

Cantada would like to savor the joy of their three-peat feat for the meantime.

"Let me worry about that later. I'm just very happy that we pulled it off again considering that we fell behind by as many as four strokes."

They never felt the pressure at all, according to Cantada, but it could have been a lot different if not for that lucky break on the 15th.

Completing the Top 10 were Zaldy Salvador-Rufino Bayron (80-313), Solomon Gines-Erwin Vinluan (75-313), Ronnie Casas-Ferdie Aunzo (78-314), Jess Casas-Boyet Saragoza (78-314), Orland Sumcad-Gerald Katigbak (76-315) and Lee Seong Ki-Ahn Woong Jin (80-316).

Zombies & U-Bix

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SILANG, CAVITE—THE KONICA MINOLTA National Pro-Am that ended yesterday at the Riviera here will go to the books as the most wind-blown ever. For four days, winds as strong as 60 kph swept Langer, toppling banana trunks, deforming, if not dropping, floppy coconut leaves and bending flagsticks. Yet, there was not a single drop of rain in four days.

It was just wind, wind and more wind.

"I slept at the Clubhouse quarters on the eve of the tournament and I could feel that winds of unusual power would blow the next morning," said Henry P. Arabelo, Marketing & Events Manager of Riviera who worked as the event's tournament director. "The winds that evening blew all night. And they were really that strong."

The winds came every day from Feb. 8 to Feb. 11, as in a song that refuses to leave the hit charts.

So strong, indeed, were the winds scores went, unbelievably, sky-high—literally, that is.

The leaders after three days—Richard Abaring and Marvin Dumandan—were 15 over at 228 on 74-79-75.

That was the highest since Bert Bravo of U-Bix Corp. revived the fabled event in 2001.

But wait, what about this?

The cutoff mark of 246-33 over—was also the highest since the tournament began in 1958 at the now-defunct Fort Bonifacio. (The event died with the privatization of Fort Bonifacio in 1995.)

These are not only interesting times on virtually all spheres of life, these are also unusual times on virtually all spheres of sporting life.

While poverty stalks the land and is usually used to lure the poor into almost make-believe riches through all kinds of rackets imaginable, the weather here has been mostly bright while the winds, usually blitzing Riviera when the skies are overcast, blew in wild abandon for four days ending yesterday.

"I am at a loss for words to describe this phenomenon," said Danny Pizarro, the Riviera president. "I've been here for years now but this is my first time to experience this kind of weather."

Is Al Gore listening?

Pizarro, himself a good golfer with senior international trophies tucked under his belt, had as partner in the one-ball, twosome tournament, Danny Zarate, one of the biggest lights in Philippine golf.

But not even their partnership, described as "dangerous" in the 108-team field, could contend in the P1.7-million tournament presented by U-Bix.

Going to yesterday's final round (I wrote this in advance for deadline purposes), Pizarro and Zarate, the one-time Nomura individual champion, hit the cut-off mark on the dot: 246 on three unlikely rounds of 82-82-82.

"At least we can boast to one and all that we were the most consistent team after three rounds," joked Pizarro.

There will always be winners as there will always be losers.

In a sense, Langer beat the field this time, although it can also be said that the elements, the winds particularly, defeated man—again. Indeed, against the elements, man is no match.

Paradoxically, U-Bix, a perennial golf patron, has become part of that golf lore.

Take a bow, Kabsat Bert.

***

The Zombies came in that era I call golden, when the best music groups sprouted like mushrooms from England led by The Beatles.

The first time I heard their music, The Zombies immediately struck me as the best—second only to The Beatles.

Most of the so-called Big Bands from England came here in the Sixties, but I made sure not to miss The Zombies and The Beatles when they came here in 1966. I sold caimitos and santols grown from our backyard in Mangatarem, Pangasinan, to be able to buy Pantranco fare in both of those trips to Manila.

Tomorrow, Feb. 13, I'll relive those days when I watch The Zombies perform a second time at the Araneta Coliseum. I can tell you in advance "the way I feel inside" the minute they start playing.

Heavenly.

***

FASTBREAK. Under the expert guidance of Joe Dagdagan, Riviera's golf course director, are Ferdie Castro and Robert Dilig, the superintendents at Langer and Couples, respectively. Without this triumvirate, the Riviera wouldn't be in tip-top shape all year round. Cheers!

***

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

ICTSI backs Jenny's LPGA stint

A HEALTHIER JENNIFER ROSALES, her game as solid as ever, leaves for Hawaii today as she starts her 2006 LPGA season by defending the SBS Open at Turtle Bay Resort's Palmer course on Feb. 16.

With her wrist fully recovered, the 27-year-old, two-time tour winner is looking at a brighter season and actually aims to surpass the $1 million mark in earnings this year.

Rosales, who finished 26th in the ADT Order of Merit last year after making slightly over $500,000, recently inked a partnership with golf patron Ricky Razon and ICTSI.

Rosales, whose other win came in the 2004 Chick fil-A Charity event, fashioned out her wire-to-wire win in the inaugural staging of the $1 million SBS event last year by firing rounds of 66, 69 and 73. Among those who gave chase and failed were then amateur star Michelle Wie and Cristie Kerr.

But her fragile wrist gave way a few weeks after and the five-time RP Ladies Open champion was forced to withdraw from a number of tournaments, the British Open included.

"My wrist is okay now and I hope to do better this year," said Rosales. "I am also honored to be associated with ICTSI, whose entry into the local golf scene has helped our players, especially the young ones who could be the country's future superstars."

"In behalf of ICTSI chair and president Ricky Razon Jr., we would like to announce that we're so proud to be Jenny's partner as she resumes her campaign on the LPGA Tour," said Narlene "Nana" Soriano during the launch of 2006 The Country Club Invitational Friday.

ICSTI has been in the forefront of golf development in the country the last few years, having maintained a pool of players under noted coach Bong Lopez, who is also Rosales' swing guru.

3rd Piata Cup stakes Suzuki

TOMORROW'S THIRD STAGING OF THE Philippine IATA Agents Travel Association (Piata) Golf Cup at the Sta. Elena Golf Club course in Laguna will stake a Suzuki APV and at least 30 tickets to various destinations all over the world.

The Suzuki APV courtesy of Suzuki Auto Makati and Pioneer Insurance will be up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize in the 18-hole tourney co-presented by DPC Yellow Pages and Transnational Diversified Group.

Major Sponsors are Amadeus, Galileo, Philippine Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Lufthansa, KLM, Etihad Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways, Eurail and Pulmantur.

Tickets to the Americas, Europe and Asia donated by British Airways, Japan Airlines, Continental Airlines, Eva Air, Malaysian Airlines, China Airlines, Royal Brunei, Singapore Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Thai Airways and Air Macau will be raffled off. Hole sponsors are Teledatacom Philippines Inc., Montemar Beach Club, American Airlines, Philcomsat Holdings, Multisigns Specialists Inc., Paircargo, Airlift Asia, ABS-CBN, Prudentialife, Suarez & Sons, Deutsche Bank.

Other sponsors are Patio Pacific, Manila Hotel, Manila Peninsula, Hotel Philippine Plaza, Seawinds Boracay, Sunbolt, Golf King, Revlon, Big Shot Bubble Gum/XL Spearmint Chewing Gum, KBS Travel, Macau Gov't Tourist Office and Figaro.

Dutch stars join Philippine Open

ATHENS OLYMPICS SILVER MEDALIST MIA AUDINA Tjiptawan brings back her act to Manila next month when she spearheads the bid of fancied The Netherlands in the first Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships firing off March 1 at the Philsports Arena. Tjiptawan was among the top European shuttlers who slugged it out with Asia's finest players during the MVP Cup here last year and the 27-year-old Indonesian heads a four-player Dutch squad which will vie for top honors in the $120,000 event presented by PLDT Business Solutions. That includes world No. 6 ladies singles player Yao Jie, 2004 Olympiad quarterfinalist Bruil Lotte and veteran campaigner Dicky Palyama, who have confirmed their participation in the IMG-organized event, sponsored by Bingo Bonanza, JVC, PLDT and Smart. Reigning Olympic and world champion Taufik Hidayat is the event's top draw.

SPORTSWATCH

Condes dethrones Gejon for RP crown

FLORANTE CONDES CAPTURED THE PHILIPPINE MINI FLYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP Thursday by knocking out defending champion Elmer Gejon in the fifth round of a scheduled 12-rounder in Mandaluyong City. Condes a wicked shot to Gejon's breadbasket, sending the latter down for good. The win improved Condes' record to 11 wins (11 knockouts) against three losses. Gejon, who took the Philippine title in early 2004, had defended the title twice before running into the dynamite-fisted Condes.

Salven L. Lagumbay

Pahayahay-Rodrigo bout on TV

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON THE BOUT BETWEEN FORMER Philippine flyweight champion Jerry Pahayahay and Jojo Rodrigo in a 10-round bout. It was part of Edgardo "Boy" Cantada's fight card held recently at the provincial capitol of Misamis Oriental in Cagayan de Oro City. Fistorama is shown through ABS-CBN Global Limited's Pinoy Central TV and RPN-9 starting at 3:30 p.m. "Golf Power Plus" airs at 3 featuring Adamson U Team 1 against Adamson U Team 3 in the 1st Samsung Inter-Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge.

NEW NBC MEMBER: North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol (left) shakes hands with National Basketball Conference's Tito Palma to seal the North Cotabato Braves' entry into the league. With them are Magtep Mayor and team manager Efren Piñol and provincial administrator Jun Piñol.

250 fights in Araneta tourney

THE LUZON–BASED GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LBGBA) WILL launch the Philippine Heritage Cup 2006 5-cock derby on Feb. 21 and 23 at the Araneta Coliseum. Because of the big number of fights (minimum of 250), the participant must field straight five cocks on either the first or second day. Each day of action dangles a guaranteed prize of P600,000 or a total of P1.2 million. Entry fee is P10,000. Backing up the classic encounter are Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace. The LBGBA is composed of LGBA, CVGBA, GBAT, KGBA, BBC, Bigba, Unigba and Tagba. For inquiries, contact 926-7808 and 924-5072 (Taz Lunasco).

Makati 3-cock derby set Feb. 13

ANOTHER 3-COCK DERBY, WITH 35 TOPNOTCH ENTRIES, ARE LINED UP tomorrow at the air-conditioned Makati Coliseum with B-Meg Derby Ace as exclusive sponsor. For an entry fee of P5,500, the guaranteed prize is P150,000, said host Amor Salvanera. Participants are requested to submit their entries today from 2-9 p.m. For details, call 896-3545 and 895-6475. The WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. will present a 3-cock event on Feb. 15, with P200,000 in guaranteed prize. Entry fee is P5,500.

Sunday special at Las Piñas Coliseum

WITH NO OTHER SCHEDULED DERBIES IN METRO MANILA, ALL ROADS LEAD to Las Piñas Coliseum tonight as the Sunday Special 3-cock derby sizzles at 7 with 50 encounters programmed. A cash prize of P300,000 is at stake, said hosts Arki dela Cruz and Otoy Abarsoza. Weights limits allowed are from 1.8- 2.4 kg. For inquiries, call 873-1040 and 874-3910 (Julius). The El Matador 4-cock derby of lawyer Ching Morales and former Mayor Nene Aguilar fires off on Feb. 18. Regular hackfights at LPC is from Monday to Sunday, said coliseum manager Alex Tobias.

Caddies' tilt reset March 12

CALATAGAN, BATANGAS—THE SECOND NAtional Caddies' Open has been moved to March 12-16 over the same three venues to give aspirants time to secure eligibility requirements.

Caddies, their sons and golf course employees like greens and grounds-keepers and even driving range tee boys who are 25 and below are qualified provided they submit the pertinent documents and are endorsed by the golf clubs they will represent.

Each participant must furnish the organizers a certified true copy of his birth certificate or any identification card that would prove that he was born not before 1981.

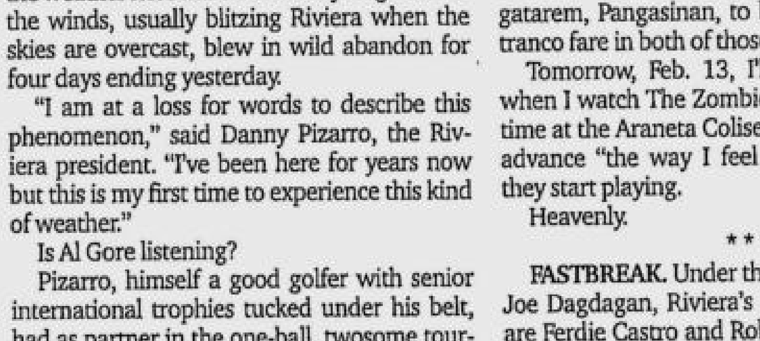
The 72-hole tournament, with the practice round and the first 36 holes to be played at tough Calatagan here, and the third round at Canlubang in Laguna, will have only the top 20 scores and ties advancing to the final round at Wack Wack.

Nomination forms from golf courses can be faxed or hand-carried to the NCO secretariat at Calatagan (fax (0919) 5470619) or Wack Wack c/o Carlito Cernal (02)7238556 on or before Feb. 28.

For inquiries, call Dave Hernandez at (0917) 8425275 and (0917) 8425257.

The top three placers last year and three other promising talents were taken into the long-term program of the organization and have seen their lives change for the better.

Driver of the Year race revs up today



SAN Miguel Beer-Erg Alcotonic driver Jody Coseteng (front) hopes to keep his pace against Kookie Ramirez in today's fifth leg of the Philippine National Touring Car Championships 2005.

THE CHASE FOR THE COVETED Driver of the Year award intensifies as top contenders try to outdo each other in the fifth and penultimate round of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 today at the Subic International Raceway.

Though way ahead with 182 points, Jody Coseteng of San Miguel Beer-Erg Alcotonic will seek another sweep against main pursuers Kookie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA and Enzo Pastor of Team TEC-Eneos.

Ramirez is second overall with 145 points while Enzo Pastor is third with 107 points in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

"Nothing is sure yet for now," said Coseteng. "There are still four races and each win is worth 25 points."

Also entered are Louis Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA, Philip Alvendia of A3 Motorsports/Malayan Automasters Touring Car Team, Dennis Uy of Velocity Motors-H&R-Conocoracing Team, Dominic Bon, the MP Turbo trio of Carlos Anton, Jonathan Buxton, Mike Potenciano and lady driver Gabby de la Merced of Big Shot Billiards.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Screaming Eagle (6), He's A Balong (3), I Remain (1), Wild Orphan (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Slew Dancer (6), Detective Daryll (2), Pure Energy (4), Yo Tero (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Silver Cho Cho (4), Jokes Only (8), Magic Dancer (3), Noor (1)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Vitality (5), Dona Galay (7), Spinning Bullet (4), Sir Guguy (3)
Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Nothing To Declare (1), Five O'Clock (7), Step On The Gas (4), Native Prince (5), Kaligatan (11)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Ravishing Raffy (1), Smooth Strike (2), Calontine Dancer (7), Hurry Prince (3)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Magic Ewan Ko (4), Kitana (8), Player's Twist (7), Record Holder (5)
Race 9—(Penta/Tri)—Chariot Of Fire (3), Michael Da Dragon (12), California Lady (11), Frosty Baby (4), Golden Link (5)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Leave No Doubt (7), Sweet Connections (8), Tres Joune (6), Penny Wise (3)
Race 11—(Penta/Tri)—Tool Pusher (7), King Yoji (10), Jaw Breaker (5), Stradivarius (12), Truly Impressive (6)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Candu (4), Karma (7), Mika's Dream (5), Crafty Treasure (3)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Eden's Quest (8), Earth Angel (4), Golden Issue (12), West N Wild (10), Lakambini (5), Happy Again (8)

Editor Emmie G. Velarde
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JASMINE Trias, first Fil-Am Idol

For a 'big sum,' ABC 5 acquires franchise for the world-famous talent search, 'American Idol'

Finally, 'Philippine Idol'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT'S CONFIRMED.

ABC 5 has acquired the franchise for the world-famous talent search "American Idol" (AI) from the show's producer, FremantleMedia.

"It will be called 'Philippine Idol,'" said Perci Intalan, ABC's vice president for Creative and Entertainment Production. He called INQUIRER Entertainment from Singapore, where he was meeting with Fremantle Asia execs over the weekend.

The local Idol will be the fifth in Asia, he said. "The others are in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and India. There are over 50 'Idol' productions all over the world." AI was inspired by "Pop Idol," which originated in the United Kingdom in 2001.

ABC 5 is eyeing a July launch.

Terra Daffon, senior vice president for Corporate Affairs, said ABC 5 started negotiating with FremantleMedia two years ago, when Filipino-American Jasmine Trias placed third in AI.

"ABC 5 has built a good working relationship with FremantleMedia through the years," she said. "In the past, the network acquired two of their game shows—'Family Feud' and 'The Price is Right.' Now we're airing AI's season five."

AI 'bible'

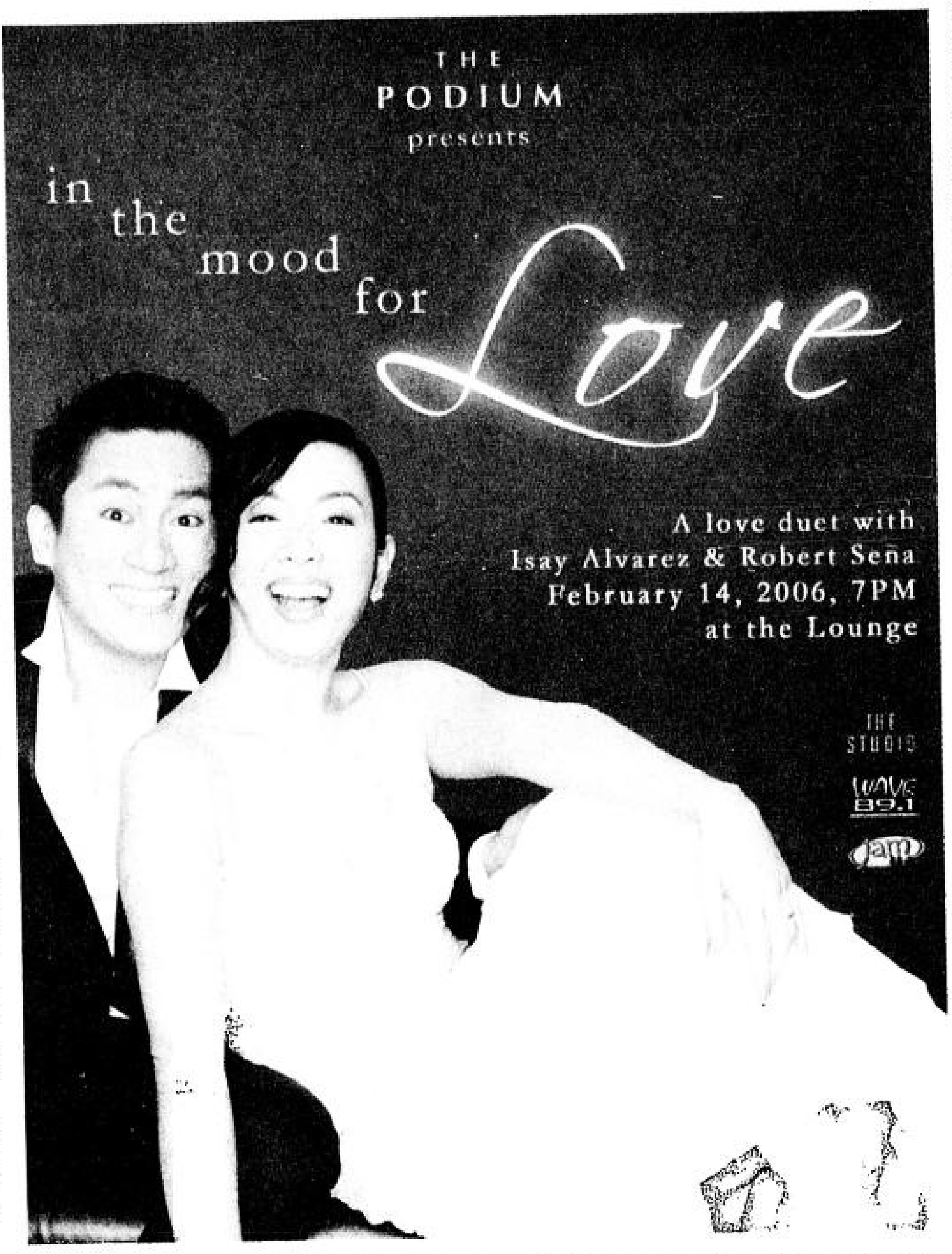
The price tag for the AI franchise is reportedly in the millions of dollars.

"It's a big sum," Intalan conceded.

"It's definitely not peanuts, but we expect to recoup the investment," Daffon said. "You're actually paying for the technical know-how. Along with the franchise comes a production 'bible,' a manual that all licensees follow to ensure consistency of all 'Idol' productions anywhere in the world."

"It's literally as thick as a bible," Intalan said by way of describing the manual. "There's a new and old testament! Imagine, two volumes of an encyclopedia combined. It contains all the production details."

"For example," Daffon explained, "the look and the measurements of the set, the lighting, the requirements for host and judges. Also, the conduct of the auditions, which we are planning to hold in Manila, Cebu and Davao."



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'Boss Vic' defends new plan

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I DON'T HAVE TO consult the FAP (Film Academy of the Philippines). I work for the President. I give my recommendations and leave the decision to her," declared Vic del Rosario, presidential consultant for the entertainment industry.

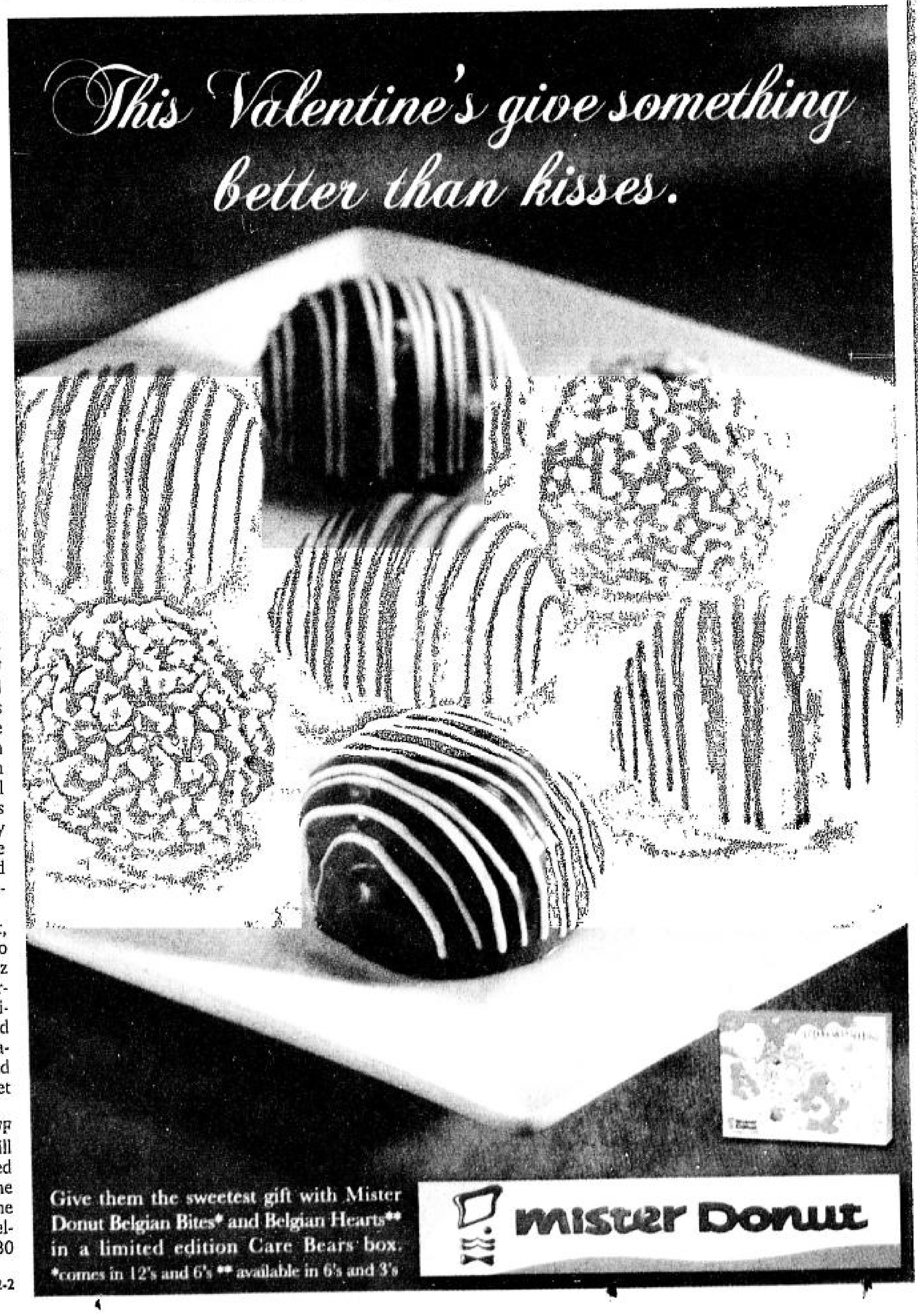
Del Rosario was reacting to the complaints of FAP director general Leo Martinez about the reallocation of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) funds.

Martinez accused Del Rosario of "manipulating" the MMFF Sharing Scheme and "favoring offices headed by people closely identified with him," such as the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) chaired by Jacky Atienza and the Optical Media Board (OMB), by Edu Manzano.

From 30 percent, FAP's share was cut to 10 percent, Martinez told INQUIRER Entertainment in a previous interview. He said two new beneficiaries—the FDCP and OMB—will now get 20 percent each.

As such the MMFF proceeds fund will now be divided among the FAP, the FDCP, the OMB, the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (30

'BOSS VIC'/ A2-2



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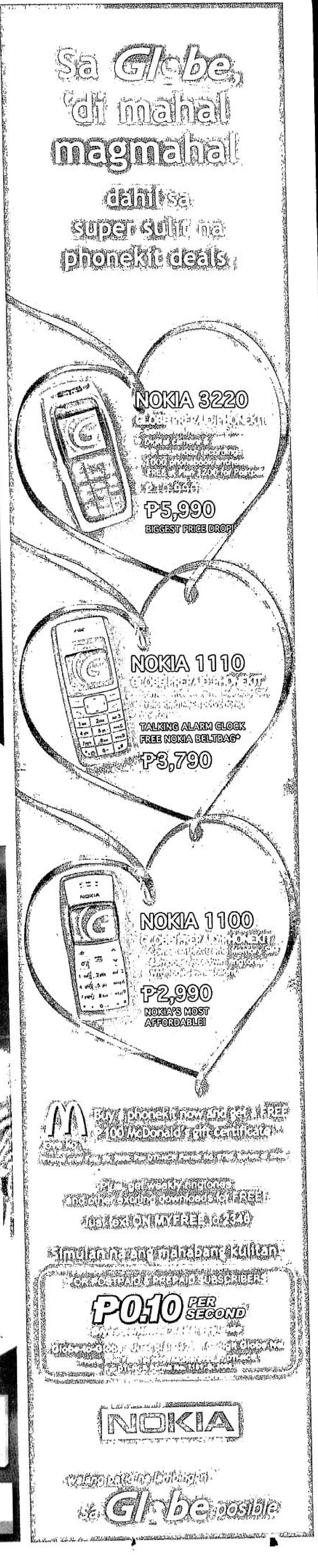

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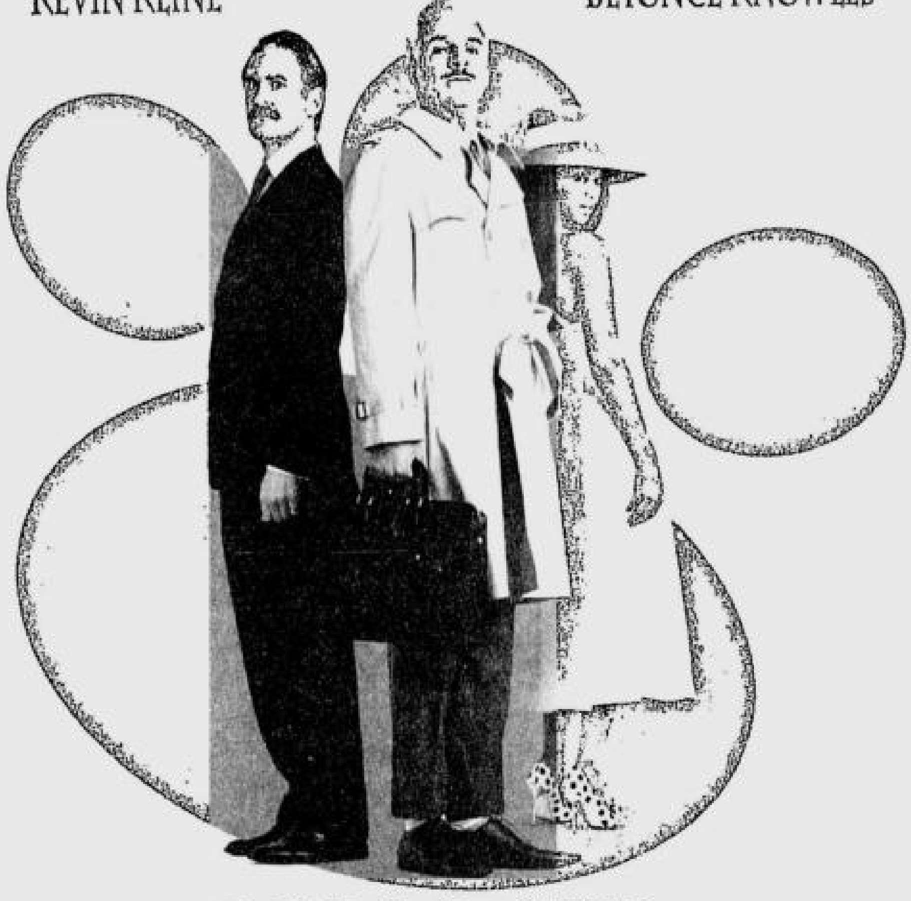

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OPENS FEB. 15

'Darna,' and 'Zima

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"WOMEN AS CULTURAL BEARERS" IS THE THEME OF the 12th "Pelikula at Lipunan" film festival, organized by the Mowelfund Film Institute and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Dubbed "Aktres," this year's festival will run from Feb. 24 to March 19 at the Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City.

Mowelfund's Nick Deocampo has included at least 35 "classics of Philippine cinema" in the lineup—films that showcase strong and varied women characters.

To be screened are vintage films like "Giliw Ko" (starring Mila del Sol and Mona Lisa), "Sisa" (Anita Linda), "Anak Dalita" (Rosa Rosal) and "Sanda Wong" (Lilia Dizon), alongside more recent gems like "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos" (starring Nora Aunor), "Relasyon" (Vilma Santos), "Private Show" (Jaclyn Jose), and "Bituing Walang Ningning" (Sharon Cuneta).

Deocampo said proceeds will finance the completion of Mowelfund's archives. "Our nation's [biggest] actresses will save the country's cinematic treasures," he pointed out.

In time for the fest, he will unveil three "lost" Filipino films that were found in Thailand's archives.

Deocampo gave INQUIRER Entertainment an exclusive peek at the three finds—"Darna" starring the recently departed Rosa del Rosario; "Dyesebel," with Edna Luna and Jaime de la Rosa; and "Banga ni Zimadar," with Edna Luna and Efren Reyes Sr.

Dome Sukvhong, chief film archivist of Thailand, entrusted to Deocampo VCD and Betacam copies of the three movies, plus one other film that they've yet to identify.

"At first, we thought it was 'Roberta,' " Deocampo said. "It's also about a little girl."

The "Darna" retrieved in Thailand, however, only consists of the first reel that focuses on Valentina (the snake woman portrayed by Cristina Aragon); the other reel, where Rosa del Rosario first appears as Darna, is still missing.

OPENS FEB.22
THE FINAL CHAPTER TO THE #1 HORROR HIT
DEATH COMES ALIVE AGAIN

FINAL DESTINATION 3

Boss Vi

From page A2-1

percent), the Anti-Film Piracy Council (10 percent) and the Presidential Social Fund (10 percent).

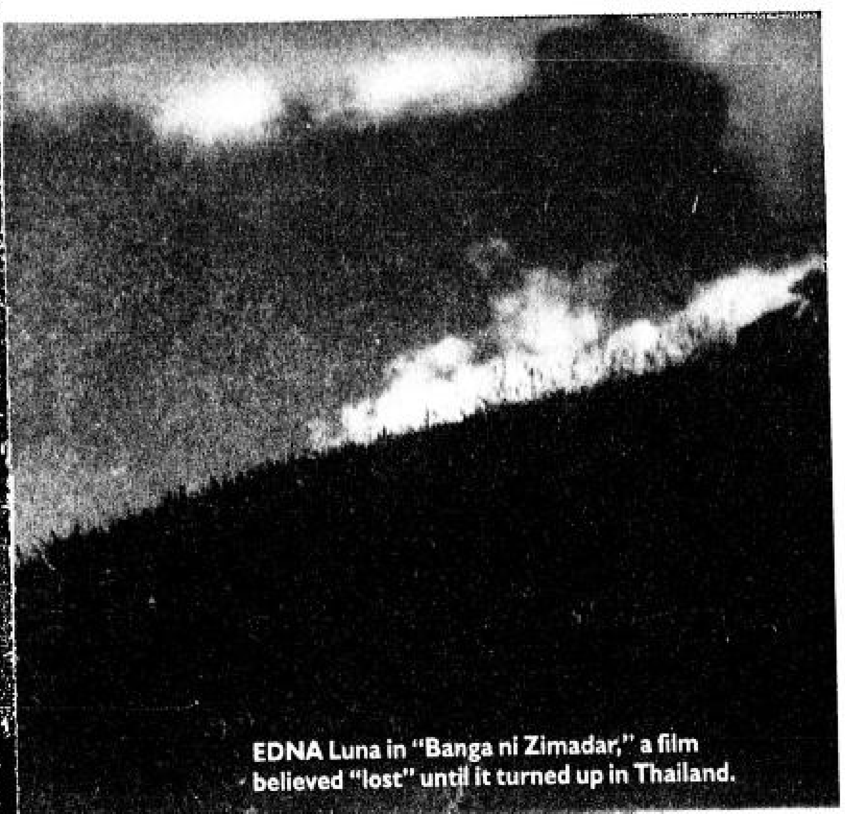
Martinez criticized Del Rosario for not consulting the FAP before proposing the new scheme to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Del Rosario said that wouldn't have done any good: "None of them would have agreeed. [Unlike Martinez], I look at the industry's problem from a broader perspective. Whatever I recommend to the President, I make sure it will benefit not just a [few]."

He added that only the Mowelfund benefited from the MMFF fund until three years ago, "when the President decided that the money should go to everyone in the industry."

"*Ang Mowelfund ang unang nasaktan*," pointed out Del Rosario, who is also chief executive officer of Viva Entertainment Inc. "But at least now, many sectors will benefit."

Last year, Del Rosario pointed out, it was Martinez who requested that the FAP's allocation be raised from 30 percent to 40 percent. "His request was not granted," Del Rosario said. "You must know [that] the FAP uses its funds for the training of the members of its [actors, directors and screenwriters] guilds. But not everyone in the industry are FAP members [and its] only major project is pro-


EDNA Luna in "Banga ni Zimadar," a film believed "lost" until it turned up in Thailand.

'Dyesebel' lar' come home

Mowelfund's 'Pelikula at Lipunan' pays tribute to local movie queens past and present

"It is still among thousands of film cans in Thailand," Deocampo said. "I'm thinking of hiring Thai archivists to look for it, but it's like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack."

Also, the 39-minute "Darna" lacks sound; the rest are dubbed in Cantonese.

Deocampo hopes to invite Edna Luna—star of "Dyesebel" and "Zimadar," who is now based in San Diego, California—to the film fest.

"Also on our guest list are the country's movie queens, past and present," he said. "Aside from the screenings, we plan to hold seminars and exhibits."

The Mowelfund archives will house not only the foundation's extensive collection, but also films from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

"Around 1,000 titles were turned over to us by the MTRCB and PIA," Deocampo said. "Like 'Minsa'y Isang Gamugamo,' 'Misteryo sa Tuwa,' 'Hubad sa Gubat…' The [excised portions] are also with us. These films are deteriorating every day. That's why we need to act fast and build film vaults."

Apart from the festival, Mowelfund is raising funds from the sale of several films to ABC 5—Manuel Conde's "Krus na Kawayan," Eduardo de Castro's "Zamboanga," Eddie Romero's "Banta ng Kahapon" and "Passionate Strangers," and Deocampo's "Oliver," "Memories of Old Manila" and "Revolutions Happen Like Refrains in a Song."

Also acquired by ABC was the 1959 film "Seksing Seksi (Mapanghalina)," produced by Luis Nolasco and starring Leopoldo Salcedo and Aura Aurea.

"With the help of these old films, we will be allowed to preserve and recover other movies," Deocampo said.

THE MERMAIDS of "Dyesebel." Luna is the one seated on the rock.

defends …

DEL ROSARIO

MARTINEZ

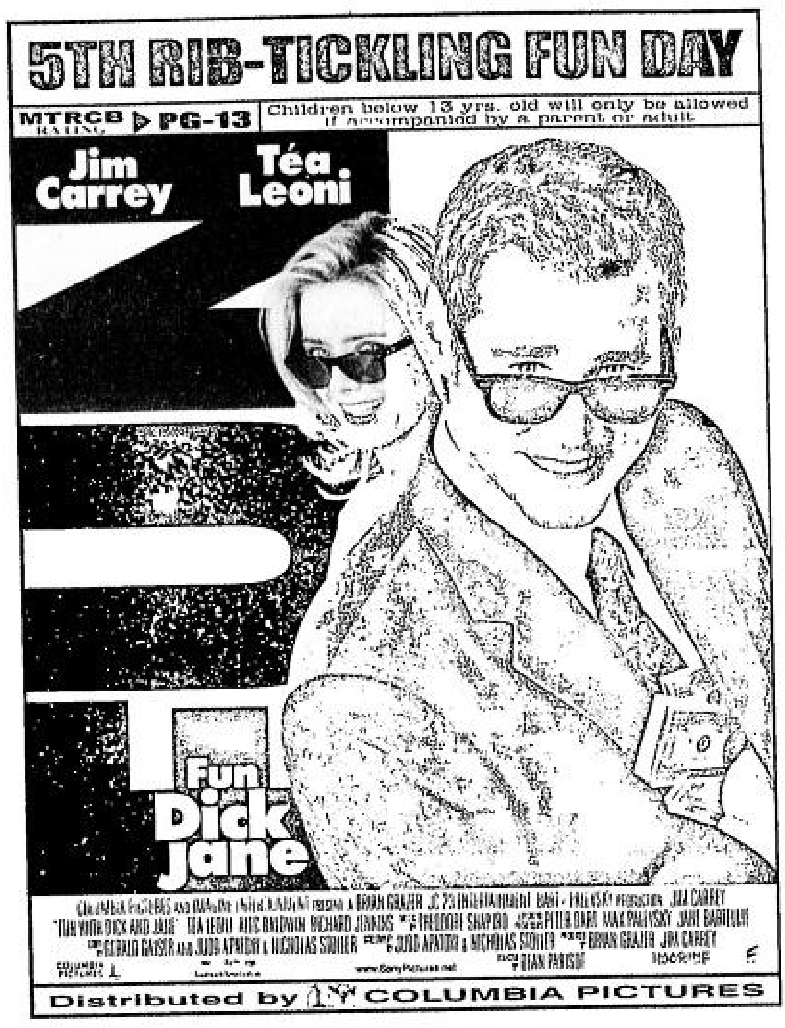
ducing its annual awards show."

Del Rosario added: "Leo can find out where the money will go. Espiridion Laxa, who is FAP chairman, sits in the FDCP Board. Leo can always ask help from the FDCP. The FAP is entitled to do that."

"To avoid talk of conflict of interests," Del Rosario said, he resigned from the Anti-Film Piracy Council on Feb. 8 after being president for eight years. The memorandum ordering the implementation of the new sharing scheme was released by the office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on Jan. 24.

Del Rosario said the share of the Presidential Security Fund "flows back to the industry" through prizes and incentives that President Arroyo gives out to producers, directors and screenwriters.

▲ ▲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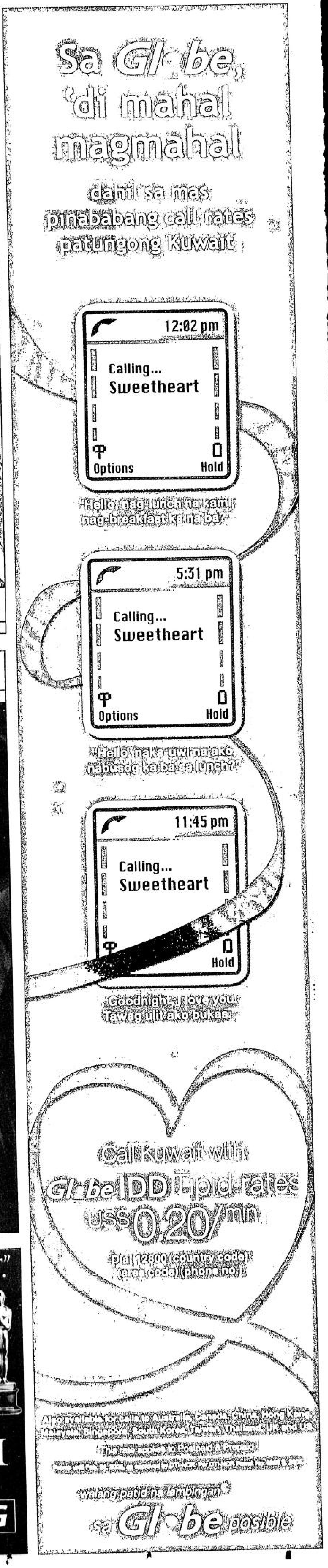
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Do 'CSI' shows help criminals clean up?

THE CAST of "CSI," whose Season 6 starts on Feb. 15 on AXN.

CLEVELAND—WHEN TAMMY KLEIN BEGAN investigating crime scenes eight years ago, it was virtually unheard of for a killer to use bleach to clean up a bloody mess.

Today, the use of bleach, which destroys DNA, is not unusual in a planned homicide, said the senior criminalist from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Klein and other experts attribute such sophistication to television crime dramas like "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," which give criminals helpful tips on how to cover up evidence.

Prosecutors have complained for years about "the CSI effect" on juries—an expectation in every trial for the type of high-tech forensic evidence the show's investigators uncover. It also appears the popular show and its two spin-offs could be affecting how some crimes are committed.

Educating killers

"They're actually educating these potential killers even more," said Capt. Ray Peavy, also of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and head of the homicide division.

A man charged in a recent double-homicide in northeast Ohio was a "CSI" fan and went to great lengths to cover his tracks, according to an affidavit filed by Trumbull County prosecutors.

Jermaine "Maniac" McKinney, 25, allegedly broke into a house, killed a mother and daughter and used bleach to remove their blood from his hands, prosecutors said. He also allegedly covered the interior of a getaway car with blankets to avoid transferring blood.

Prosecutors said McKinney burned the bodies, his clothing and removed his cigarette butts—which would contain his DNA—from the crime scene.

McKinney, who was indicted this month on two counts of aggravated murder, aggravated burglary and other charges, could face the death penalty if convicted.

Cases where suspects burn and tamper with evidence seem to be increasing, said Chuck Morrow, chief of the criminal division in the Trumbull County Prosecutor's office.

"People are getting more sophisticated with making sure they're not leaving trace evidence at crime scenes," Morrow said.

Klein said most crimes aren't well-planned and that detailed attention to prevent leaving trace evidence typically occurs in cases where someone has killed a family member or business partner.

"For the most part, our killings involve gang bangers who are pretty stupid," she said.

Aberrations

Sophisticated planning and concealment of evidence are aberrations, not the norm, said Larry Pozner, former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

"Most people who commit crimes are not very bright and don't take many precautions," Pozner said. "CSI and all the other crime shows will make no difference."

Yet, in the six years since CBS, which did not return phone calls seeking comment, introduced "CSI," there's been a trend of fewer clues like hair, cigarette butts and the killer's blood left behind at crime scenes, Peavy said.

The more sophisticated the television story lines get, the better equipped criminals will be, Peavy said, adding that he never watches "CSI" because it's too unrealistic. *Joe Milicia, AP*

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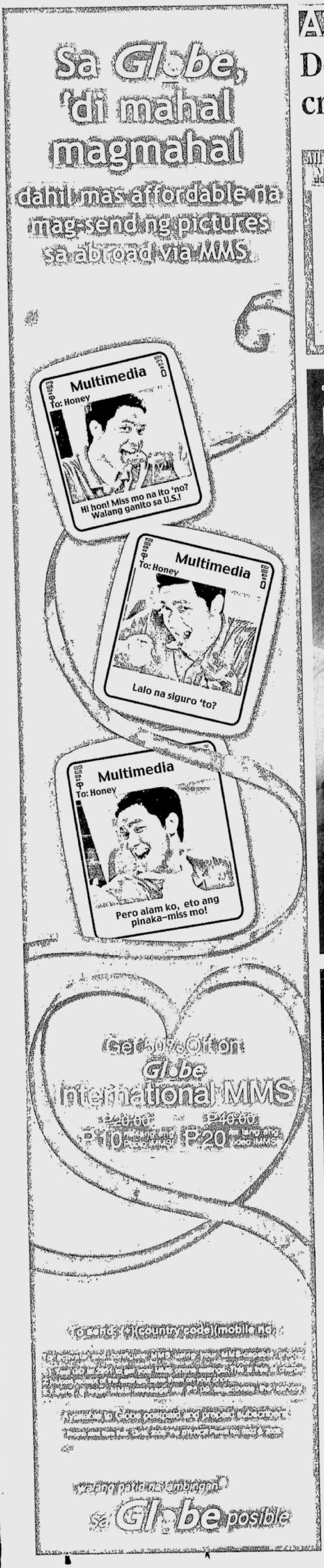
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MiG moves to LA for good

FIL-AUSSIE rocker overwhelmed by last visit to Manila.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—THANKS TO NOEL Shaw of New York, who confirmed what we mentioned in our front page story Thursday on Oscar nominee **Pia Clemente.**

We wrote of reports that someone had already scored the distinction of being the first Filipino-American to receive an Academy nomination. In an e-mail, Noel wrote: "Our brother **Ariel Velasco-Shaw** was nominated in 1994 (with three others) for Best Special Effects for his work on 'The Nightmare Before Christmas.' Were it not for some other little movie called 'Jurassic Park,' they may have won! Ariel now works as a visual effects Supervisor."

Noel added, "Kudos to Pia Clemente! Like myself, my sister **Angel Velasco-Shaw** is a New York-based Filipino-American filmmaker. After telling me the great news that Pia's short film was nominated... Angel reminded me that over 10 years ago, Ms. Clemente had come to us, fresh out of Columbia University's film school, seeking general filmmaking advice. All these years later, we are happy for Pia's success."

So Pia still has the honor of being the first Filipino-American woman to get an Oscar nod.

Life after 'Rockstar'

Our Friday column on **JD** and his new life with the Aussie band INXS prompted us to seek **MiG Ayesa** and ask him for an update on his own life after "Rockstar: INXS."

"I have just moved to LA from London, and I am busy with getting my life in order once again," came MiG's quick reply via e-mail. "We [moved] from Sydney to London [only] three and a half years ago, and to... move again to yet another country has been arduous, to say the least. However, this time the move has been with much more purpose. My wife, my dog and I have moved to LA with the [prospect] of a recording deal with Universal Records, a car from Honda and a ready-made support group of friends and fans."

MiG, whose full name is Miguel Alfonso Ramon Legarda Ayesa, has quickly been won over by one thing about LA: "The weather is a lot more forgiving than the English winter!" We sensed his excitement when he wrote, "I am currently in pre-production for my debut album and that will be my focus. I hope to have it completed by May 2006."

By coincidence, MiG (from the MiG Jet Fighter, which he used to dream of flying) arrived in LA when JD and his Aussie bandmates were in town. "I saw INXS perform at the Gibson Amphitheatre here the night after we arrived," he told us. His verdict? "I was very impressed. JD sounded great despite the fact he was having voice problems due to an infection. It was fairly early in the tour, so I'm sure he is learning with every concert. I am confident that his performance will improve as the tour progresses."

He continued, "Even though I thought to myself what a great gig it must be to sing with INXS, I really didn't envy JD's job. Because despite all our pleas that nobody should be compared to **Michael Hutchence**, I could not help but do the [comparing] myself. It was great to hear the old INXS hits, but I couldn't help wishing for new takes on the songs. It would have been refreshing to hear maybe an acoustic version of a track, or a rocked-out version of another. They are re-inventing themselves, so they should reinvent their music."

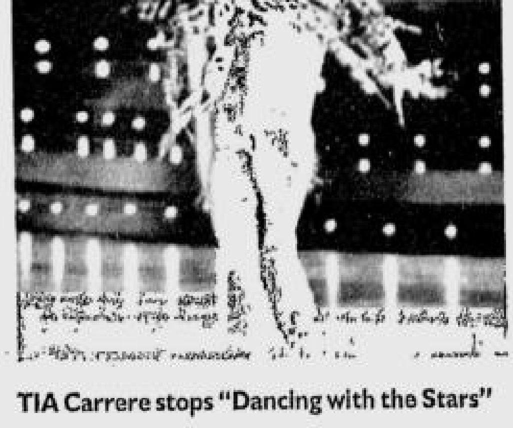
The Pinoy-Aussie rocker shared details of the backstage reunion of sorts: "I did go backstage after the show when Kirk (**Pengilly** of INXS) called for us to join them, and it was great to see them all again. I think the best thing about winning the competition would have been to hang out with all of them. I really like the guys in the band and I miss their energy. I don't know if it was the 'Aussieness,' but it did feel warmly familiar."

The former star of London's musical about the Queen, "We Will Rock You," had more to say about JD: "It was good to see JD again. We left ('Rockstar') having become quite close and it was nice to re-connect. He is not the type to stay in touch, but when we saw each other again, it was like seeing a long lost friend. I am very happy for his success, and he seemed to be very happy with his new beautiful girlfriend, (model/actress) Estella Warren."

Of **Marty Casey**, who was at the Gibson Amphitheatre, too, since his band Lovehammers open the INXS concerts, MiG said, "I saw Marty before the gig, and that was another great reunion. I thought he and the Lovehammers were spectacular. I will put my bet on them as the next act to really blow up here in the US, if not the world rock arena. Marty is so enigmatic and sounded and looked awesome. He's the ultimate rock star!"

When we asked about the highlights of his

MIG MOVES/ A2-2



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4 BLOODRAYNE 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
5 FUN with DICK and JANE 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
6 FIREWALL 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 DERAILED 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
8 UNDERWORLD 2 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
9 SAW 2 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
10 WALK THE LINE 1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40

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1 FIREWALL 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50
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3 BLOODRAYNE 12:20 2:30 4:40
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8 WALK THE LINE 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

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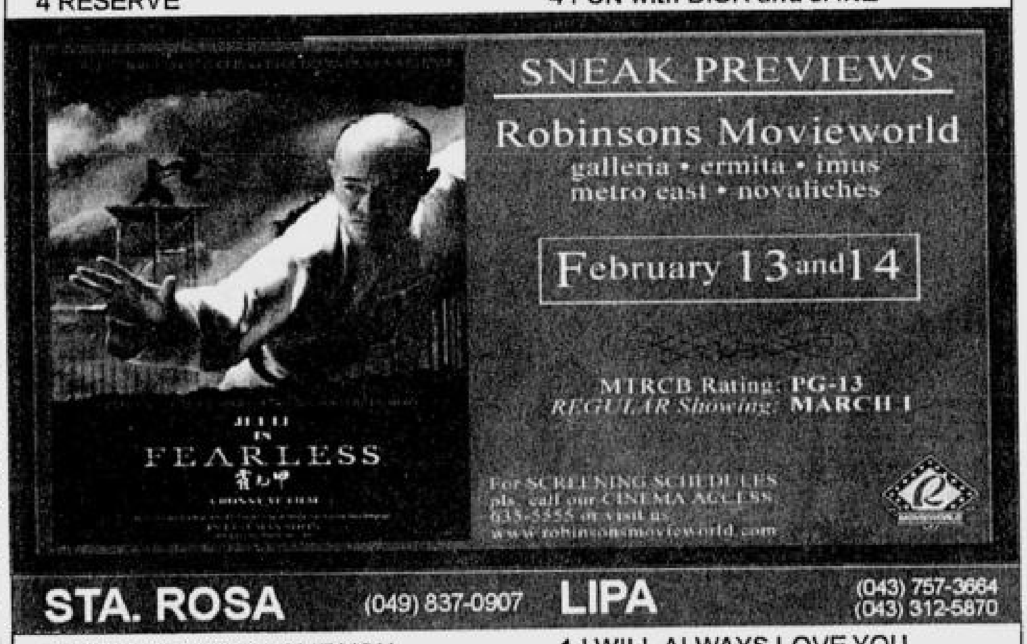
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Gender benders on TV are th

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MORE GENDER BENDERS ARE throwing viewers for a loop these days. It isn't only films like "Brokeback Mountain" and "Transamerica" that are "Mainstreaming" gender issues, but some TV shows as well.

For instance, on a recent **Maury Povich** show on the Second Avenue cable channel, the focus was on more than 10 people who had opted to change their gender.

There were men who had undergone sex-change operations and "gender modification" hormone processes to become women. And women who had transformed themselves into men, complete with muscles, beards, gruff voice, etc.

In an even more complex modification, one of Povich's unique guests started out as a man, became a woman, then had second thoughts—and is now a man again!

But the most far-out feature involved two guests—a woman who was now a man, and a man who had become a woman—and they now live together as man and wife!

The complex-compound gender acrobatics involved in that final case are truly astounding. But, the two people figuring in that ultimate feat of gender bending say that it was all worth it, because they're now happy, both as individuals and as a married couple.

Of course, some viewers may wonder if the "bended" marriage could lead to confounding bedtime questions like, "Who does what to whom?" and if natural-born children could result from such a pairing.

More graphically, some would want to know how orgasms could be achieved by transformed women or men with surgically created sexual organs.

These thoughts could come to mind, because Povich's show tends to treat such extreme experiences as pop-cultural popcorn, and for shock value.

But the less gaga viewers can still pick up valuable information from such features, to expand his appreciation of the importance of the "right" gender for people who will stop at nothing to become the persons they believe they truly are, sexually speaking.

Lessons learned along these lines need not to be limited to gender issues. Even people never dream of under change operation or their female breasts f can still deepen their s and the exciting rang possibilities. Even as w unbend!

Aside from enhanci of self, we can learn to value the choices othe themselves, in all life—even if they're n ferent from what we for ourselves.

Vive le difference!

'Emma'

PREMIERING at 9: morrow on the Anima "Emma," a romantic a set in Victorian Lon (voiced by **Yumi Ton** love with wealth (**Tokuyoshi Kawashin** family wants him to m high-born lady.

Will he disobey his with his two love?

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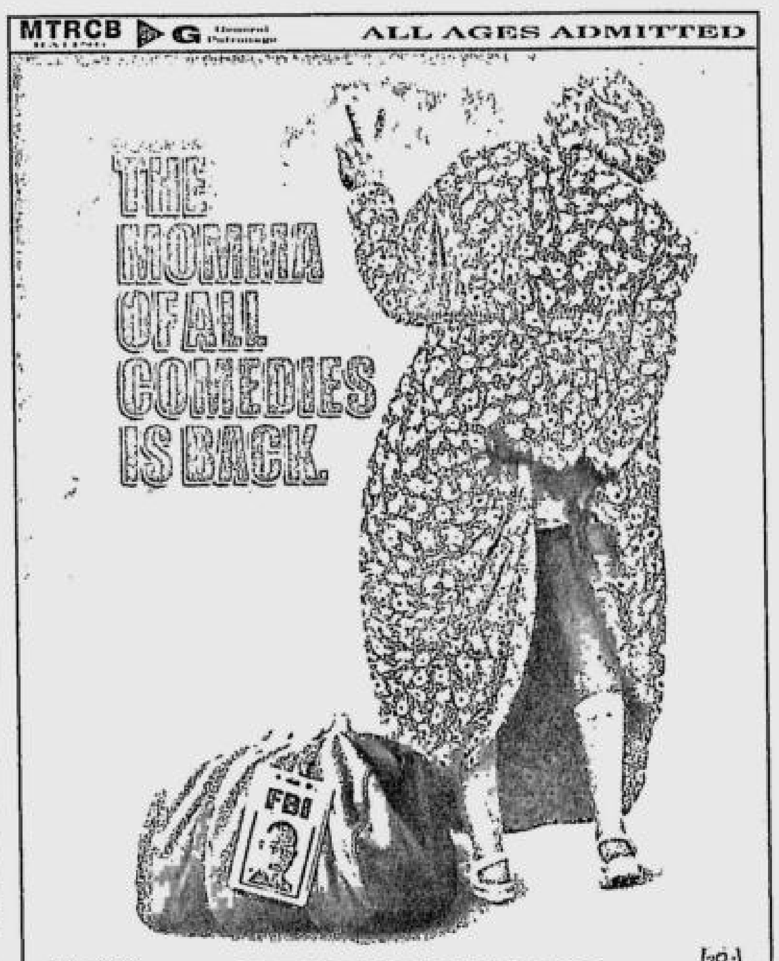
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PIA Clemente

MiG moves

From page A2-1

two visits to the Philippines after h pressive showing in "Rockstar," Mi swered exuberantly: "They were in ble trips. It was so different to go b the Philippines and find that eve knew my name. I really felt a conn to the country this time, because I was welcomed back like a long lost think the highlights for me would h be three things. First, the Adve Congress in Cebu. It was the first felt the pride of the Filipino in what achieved. Second, the MTV Music mit—80,000 people!!! Hello Wem And third, seeing all my relatives and to share this amazing expe with them."

In response to my request for memorable anecdotes about his st the Philippines, the former Londo unteered, "I think one of the fu things I remember from my trip when I went into a store and a shop er said, 'MiG!!! You are from "Ro INXS!!!" So... who's winning?' I have the heart to tell him the comp had been over for three months."

According to MiG, his return to Australia was just as memorable: "I did return to Sydney for a hu concert for Foxtel. 'Rockstar' was shown on cable on Foxtel and it was the highest-rating show that Foxtel had ever aired. I was the headline act for their 10th An niversary celebration. To be on the same lineup as some of my heroes like **Jon Stevens** (ex-INXS fro man), **Christine Anu**, **Guy Sebastian**, Taxiride, Human Natu and even **David Hasselhoff** was pretty awesome. It was nice to be welcomed back to Australia and be so well-receiv They really rolled out the red c pet for me."

This musician who played **Ritchie Valens** in a hit Aussie pr duction of "The Buddy Holly St ry" also went back to his h school as a star: "I was inducted to my high school Hall of Fame at St Patrick's College, Strathfield."

"It was so nice to spend so quality time with my parents well," volunteered the 36-year- singer-composer. "I miss th way too much. I was reminde how incredibly beautiful Syd is, after going on a cruise on the harbor with one of my b friends. Sydney is definitel place to retire and bring up k Something to work toward. dream home on the north beaches of Sydney with lots of tle MiGlets running about!"

MiG, his wife **Simone de la Rue** and their dog are moving their new LA digs next week.

Tia booted

While MiG got tremend support from Pinoys all over world, Fil-Am actress **Tia Carrere** was not as lucky. She got vote "Dancing with the Stars" week. At least Tia manage stick around longer than ano actress, **Tatum O'Neal**. And T grateful that as a result of the orous rehearsals for her we dance routines on the TV re show, she lost more than pounds gained during her p nancy. She became a first- mom to Bianca last Septemb

As we write this, **George Hamilton** is still in the run but he could have been vote Friday.

rowing viewers for a loop

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governor of Tokyo, Hunter uncovers a plan to build a huge drug-dealing network in conjunction with the Chinese Mafia.

'Fearless'

JET Li's action starrer, "Fearless," will hold sneak previews tomorrow and on Tuesday in selected theaters nationwide. Billed as Li's final martial arts film, "Fearless" chronicles the inspiring life of wushu martial arts pioneer **Huo Yuanjia.**

'Queen It's A Kinda Magic'

CONCERTS Int'l. announces that the theatrical rock production "Queen It's A Kinda Magic," originally set for Feb. 9, will instead be presented this April. Call 813-2617.

'Midsummer Night's Dream'

WILLIAM Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will soon be staged by Dramatic Personae at La Consolacion College Manila at 6 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 14. The interactive picnic theater version of the famous play is directed by **Lito Casaje.** Its lead actors include **Alfonso Deza, Deelan Patrick, Daniel Robert Magisa** and **Doods Jimenez.** Call 736-0235 local 34.

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Guess who?

News stories of last Wednesday's Grammy Awards reminded us of this diva singer's strange request when we were being trained how to seat the stars at the recent Globes. She wanted to bring her "aura consultant." The request was turned down, of course, but it gave us pause: Exactly what is an aura consultant? Only in Hollywood, folks!

Great feedback

Since we began writing this column, we've been receiving encouraging e-mails from the Philippines and different parts of the world. Our Golden Globe Award coverage drew more feedback than usual. We even heard from former top model and now Connecticut-based **Bessie Badilla-del Castillo** and acclaimed Fil-Am director **David Maquiling.**

To all our readers like Bessie and David, thank you! You make writing this column worth it.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

OPENS FEBRUARY 15!

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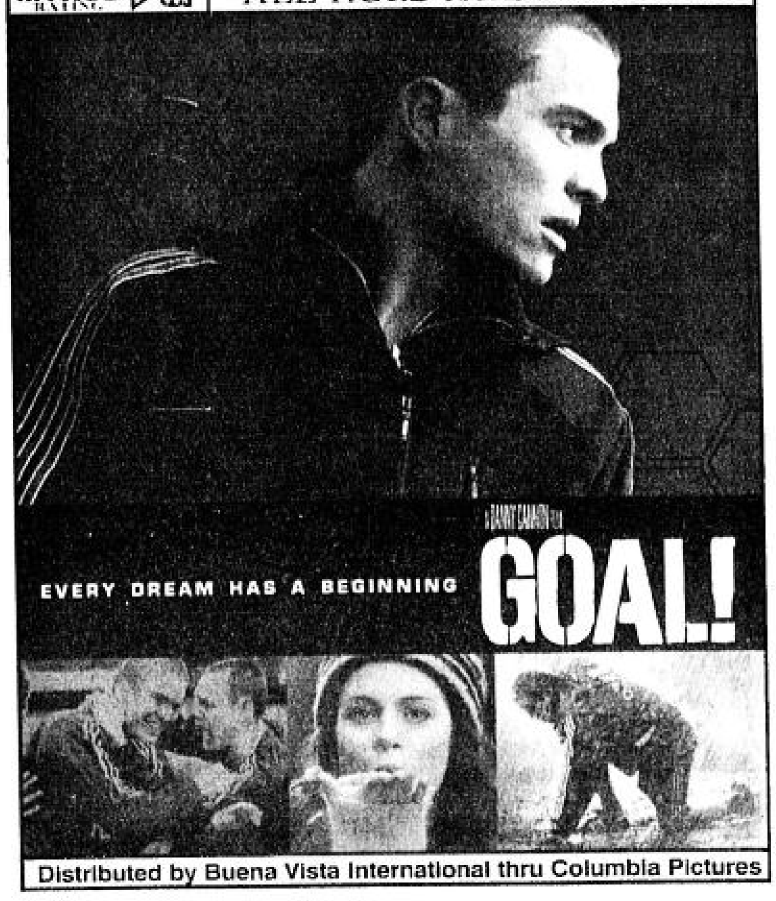

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CINEMA 4 FUN WITH DICK & JANE 11:40 , 2:20 ,5:00, 7:40 , 10:20 PG13

CINEMA 5 FIREWALL 11:40 , 2:20 ,5:00, 7:40 , 10:20 PG13

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FEBRUARY 10,11 &13	VINA M. , RACHEL A. & GENEVA C.	8:30PM
February 14, 2006	JESSA & DINGDONG AVANSADO	9PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

FEBRUARY 10,2006	BOBBY SOUL	9PM
FEBRUARY 11,2006	SIDE A	9PM
FEBRUARY 13 & 14	JAZZ YOU , JAZZ ME ISABELLA & RICHARD MERCK	9PM

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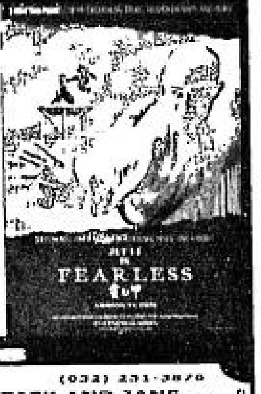

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08 20 LFS / 09 00 LMF / 10:35 END
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01:40FS / 02 10 MF / 04:25 / 06:40
08:25 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:45 END
MEGAMALL
FIREWALL
10:15 FS / 10:45 MF / 01 00 / 03:15 / 05 30
07 45 / 09 30 LFS / 10 00 LMF / 11:45 END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
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FIREWALL
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MANILA
BLOODRAYNE
11 30 FS / 01 30 MF / 03 30 / 05 30 / 07:30
09 00 LFS / 09 30 LMF / 11 00 END

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METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 FIREWALL
2 DERAILED
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
6 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
7 SAW 2
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 NEW WORLD
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12 MUNICH

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 FIREWALL
2 MUNICH
3 NEW WORLD
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 SAW 2
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 ZATHURA
9 BLOODRAYNE
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 FIREWALL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 NEW WORLD

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FIREWALL
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MUNICH
2 ZATHURA
3 SAW 2
4 FIREWALL
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
7 NEW WORLD
8 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
9 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 BLOODRAYNE
12 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
2 NEW WORLD
3 FIREWALL
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 MUNICH
6 SAW 2
7 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
8 UNDERWORLD 2
9 BLOODRAYNE
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 NEW WORLD
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 MUNICH
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 SAW 2
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 FIREWALL
8 NEW WORLD

SM CITY MANILA
1 MUNICH
2 BLOODRAYNE
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5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
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SM CITY SAN LAZARO
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SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FIREWALL
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SM CITY BAGUIO
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 LITTLE MANHATTAN
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FIREWALL

SM CITY BACOOR
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 NEW WORLD
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FIREWALL
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
8 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006

SM CITY MARILAO
1 SAW 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 FIREWALL

SM CITY LUCENA
1 ZATHURA
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 RUMOR HAS IT
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 SAW 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 LITTLE MANHATTAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 FIREWALL
3 DERAILED
4 DOMINO
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 SAW 2
7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
8 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LITTLE MANHATTAN
2 RESERVED
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 ZATHURA
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 RESERVED
8 THE MAID

SM CITY DAVAO
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 ZATHURA
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 THE MAID
5 RUMOR HAS IT
6 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 DERAILED
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 THE MAID

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Grammys a reminder of U2's continuing musical influence

'I think a lot of people voted for the band as opposed to the album,' says Ken Schlager, executive editor of Billboard magazine

NEW YORK—FETED BY WORLD leaders and honored for their humanitarian work, Irish rockers U2 and their charismatic frontman Bono received the accolades that mattered most Wednesday—from their musical peers.

Barely mentioned in the run-up to the annual Grammy awards, U2 ended up dominating the evening, winning all five categories in which they were nominated, including the prestigious Album and Song of the Year prizes.

The unexpected haul was a reminder of U2's continuing musical influence, which has at times been overshadowed by Bono's high-profile campaigning for causes like AIDS prevention and poverty alleviation.

"If you think this is going to go to our heads, it's too late," Bono said, as he accepted yet another Grammy at the US music industry's biggest party of the year in Los Angeles.

The issue of swollen heads is a sensitive one for U2 and particularly for Bono whose style of political activism has been dismissed by some critics as sanctimonious preaching.

"There are probably more annoying things than being hectored about African development by a wealthy Irish rock star in a cowboy hat, but I can't think of one at the moment," the writer Paul Theroux, wrote recently in the New York Times.

But for his admirers, including the likes of Nelson Mandela, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, Bono can do little wrong, and he has regularly been mentioned as a future Nobel peace laureate and even a potential head of the World Bank.

He was named one of Time magazine's "Persons of the Year" in 2005, alongside Bill and Melinda Gates, and has been referred to as "a kind of one-man state" and even "an alternative United Nations."

Some industry insiders were surprised at the group's success on Wednesday, given that their album, "How To Build An Atomic Bomb," was released in 2004 and is no longer even on the charts.

"I think a lot of people voted for the band as opposed to the album," said Ken Schlager, executive editor of Billboard magazine.

While U2 are hardly in need of a career boost, Schlager said the Grammys were more important for publicizing the esteem in which Bono, The Edge, Larry Mullen and Adam Clayton are held by their peers.

During the ceremony, U2 were publicly thanked by rapper Kanye West among others and performed on stage with soul singer Mary J. Blige.

"What you saw was 360 degrees of the music industry really adoring this group," Schlager said. "They are without doubt the best live popular music act in the world right now. That, more than anything else, makes them huge stars."

Nearly always dressed in black and always with his signature wrap-around tinted glasses, Bono has, in recent years, become as comfortable in the political arena as in 60,000-seat stadiums.

He was present at the meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized powers last year when it decided to cancel the debt of the 40 poorest countries, and he also attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland last month.

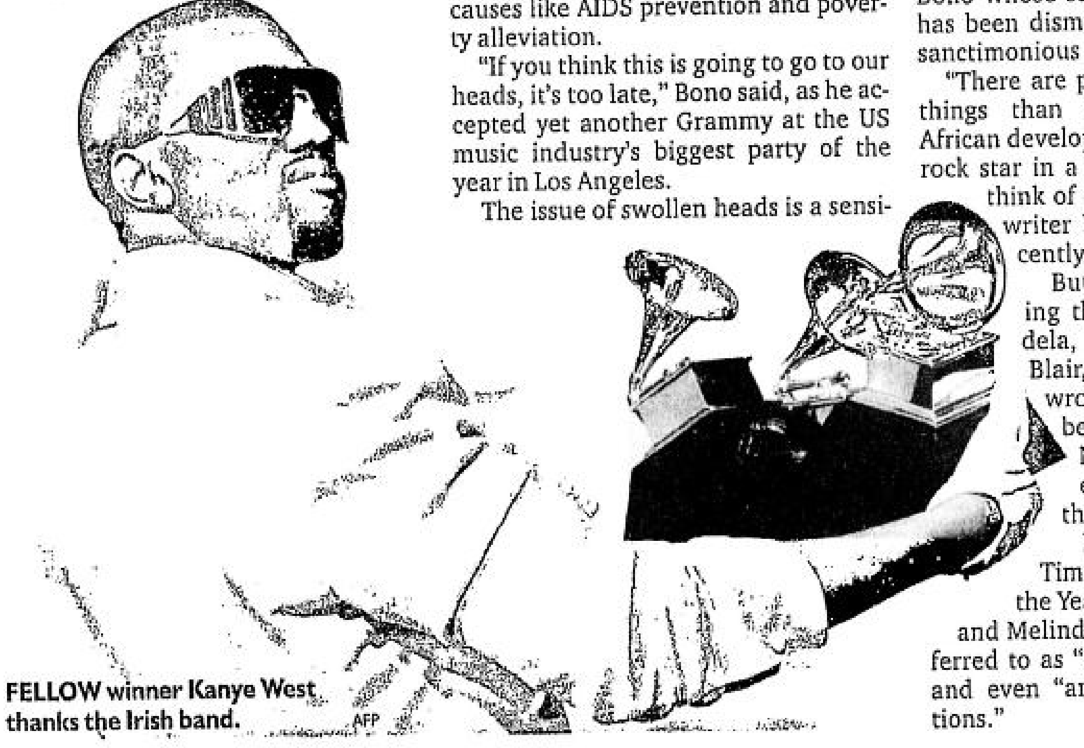
He even showed up last week at the US national prayer breakfast in Washington to urge President George W. Bush to boost US aid to the world's poor.

In one of his many acceptance speeches on Wednesday, Bono compared the excitement of being in a rock band to running away with a circus.

"And there's also the possibility with rock music... that it might just amount to something a little more than entertainment on occasion and that you might be able to communicate some honest feelings," he said. *Giles Hewitt, AFP*

U2, from left, Larry Mullen, The Edge, Bono and Adam Clayton

AP



FELLOW winner Kanye West thanks the Irish band.

AP

KELLY Clarkson

But 'Idol' wins in the ratings

LOS ANGELES—THE POP STAR WANNAbes of "American Idol" outshone the likes of Madonna, U2 and Coldplay at the Grammys on Wednesday night as the hit TV talent contest clobbered music's highest honors in the Nielsen ratings.

"American Idol," airing on the Fox network opposite the first hour of CBS' Grammy Awards telecast, averaged 28 million viewers, compared to 15 million for the Grammys, Nielsen Media Research reported in early figures on Thursday.

The fact that more viewers were caught up in the Hollywood auditions of amateur singers than in the glitz and glamour of the world's hottest-selling recording stars was further testament to the popularity of "Idol," the most watched show on US television.

It also underscored the continuing ratings decline of the Grammys and other entertainment awards shows in recent years.

The three-and-a-half-hour Grammy telecast as a whole drew 17 million viewers, down nearly 2 million from last year and the smallest audience for the show in at least 11 years, Nielsen said.

Among performers taking the Grammy stage during the first hour of Wednesday's broadcast were Madonna, who opened the show, British rockers Coldplay and R&B singer John Legend and who was named Best New Artist.

The first artist presented with an award on the Grammy telecast was Kelly Clarkson, who got her big break as the inaugural "American Idol" champion but neglected to mention in her acceptance speech the Fox show that made her famous. *Steve Gorman, Reuters*

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GRETCHEN Malalad, AWOL from the Air Force

'Housemate' in big trouble

By Joselle dR Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Looks like "Pinoy Big Brother" celebrity housemate Gretchen Malalad is in big trouble. She may lose her job in the military because she failed to ask permission from her superiors before entering the contest.

Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, Philippine Air Force (PAF) spokesperson, told the INQUIRER by phone that Malalad, who holds the rank of Airwoman Second Class (AW2C), was declared absent without leave (AWOL) on Thursday.

Malalad's job is unknown to many. Most fans know her only as the gold medalist in karatedo during the 23rd Southeast Asian games. Her PBB housemates have no clue.

Padilla said Malalad was already in trouble as early as January, when she stopped reporting for work at the Air Force Service Support Group (AFSSG) in Villamor Air Base.

She made things worse by joining PBB, he said.

Surprise!

Malalad's superiors and colleagues didn't know what she was up to, Padilla said, until they saw her on TV. "After discussing it, Lt. Col. Alejandro Camagay, commander of the Air Force Service Support Group, and I declared her AWOL."

If Malalad fails to report in the next few days, he added, she will be penalized. Soldiers who go AWOL are normally kicked out; some face administrative charges.

Padilla said Malalad, 26, also failed to report for Basic Military Training, which all soldiers are required to undergo.

The first cycle of the three-month training started Thursday at the Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas.

A few of Malalad's colleagues pointed out that her joining PBB violated "every PAF rule." Plus, they said, her "very long hair" runs contrary to the requirement of short hair for soldiers. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Not a stunt': Jessa's sick

By Marinel R. Cruz

SINGER-ACTRESS JESSA Zaragoza, prohibited by doctors from doing any physical activity due to esophagitis, or inflammation of the esophagus, decided to cancel her Valentine concert with husband Dingdong Avanzado.

In a press statement sent to INQUIRER Entertainment, Dingdong said: "We cannot compromise Jessa's health. Our doctors advised us that Jessa's current condition makes it difficult for her to handle any form of physical activity ... esophagitis makes it impossible for her to sing."

According to Chuck Gomez, Jessa's friend and publicist, the singer-actress is scheduled for a biopsy procedure this week. Jessa was taken to the Cardinal Santos Hospital in San Juan on Feb. 7 after she complained of difficulty in swallowing.

On Feb. 8, after performing an endoscopy procedure, Jessa's doctor announced that the singer-actress was suffering from internal bleeding. "Her doctor said one valve in Jessa's stomach is open when it shouldn't be," explained Gomez.

"Right now, she's being fed intravenously," said Dingdong.

Gomez said the couple finds "very cruel," the rumor that the concert—"That Thing Called Love," set at the Music Museum on Feb. 14—was canceled because of poor ticket sales.

"It's not true that the couple had merely pulled a stunt," said Gomez. "Those who think so should perhaps visit Jessa at the hospital. Her doctors don't want her to move unnecessarily. She can't even talk."

"It saddens us to cancel the show," said Dingdong. "We promise to proceed with it as soon as Jessa recovers."

Gomez said tickets previously sold will definitely be honored on the rescheduled date.

'Journalists first, employees second'

By Nini Valera

MARIA RESSA, ABS-CBN News chief, said on Wednesday she made it clear to the news staff that they were journalists first, and ABS-CBN employees second.

Ressa's team was the first to arrive at the scene of the "Wowowee" stampede on Saturday at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

The former CNN correspondent for Southeast Asia said in an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment:

"I told everybody to pretend that they were working for someone else—GMA-7 or Reuters or CNN—other than ABS-CBN in covering this story. We are journalists first and foremost. We want to lead the story, the investigation. I told the staff (during a general assembly after the stampede) to ask hard questions."

Critical

Ressa pointed out that the team had covered similar incidents in the past. "But this was different," she said, "because it involved ABS-CBN. The first 24 hours after the tragedy was critical for the network's news bureau. That day, a big chunk of our broadcast was about it; we even expanded 'TV Patrol' that night."

She talked to Charrie Villa, head of news gathering, and Luchi Cruz-Valdez, head of current affairs, the next day, Ressa said, and they "made the delineation" together. Essentially, this meant to "forget corporate and what they have to do."

Villa said she likened the news team to doctors, "who should treat the patient before asking who's going to pay."

She elaborated: "I asked our news editors to be more critical…to find the people who said negative things about ABS-CBN. I wanted those sound bytes."

Ressa said she was certain that televiewers would quickly switch to another channel if they thought the ABS-CBN new coverage was biased.

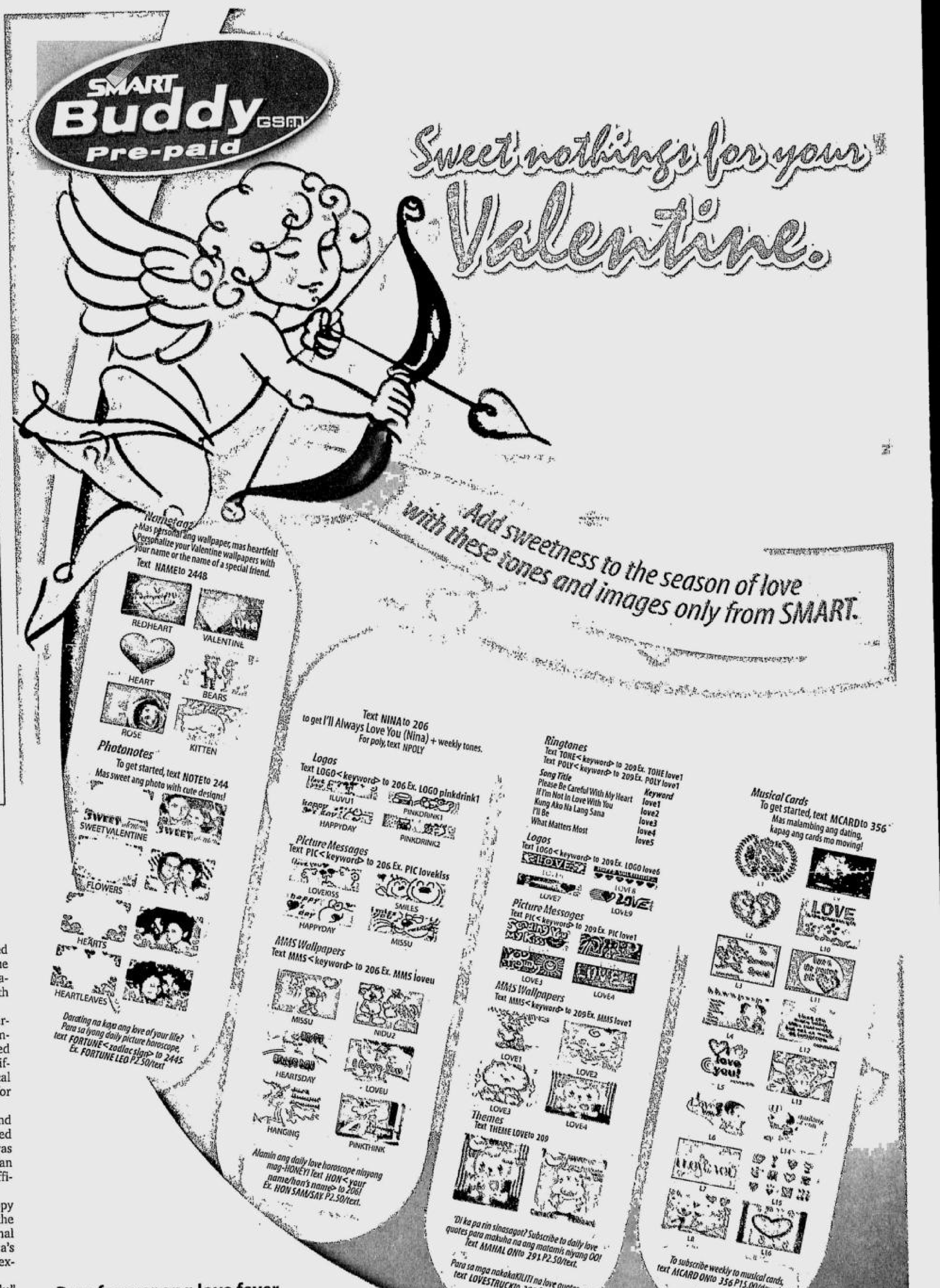
Villa noted that the news organization of ABS-CBN is routinely accused of protecting the interests of its owners, the Lopezes.

"But we ... run the newsroom the best way we can as journalists," she said. "That's why we (herself, Ressa and Cruz-Valdez) are called the three witches."

In fact, Villa was sure more people were watching ABS-CBN's coverage of the stampede "to see how we're handling it."

They took it as an opportunity to "show our credibility," she said.

Even it's ABS-CBN that's in a spot, Ressa stressed, "the news will always say everything."



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Logos
Text LOGO<keyword> to 206 Ex. LOGO pinkdrink1

Picture Messages
Text PIC<keyword> to 206 Ex. PIC lovekiss

MMS Wallpapers
Text MMS<keyword> to 206 Ex. MMS loveu

Alamin ang daily love horoscope niyong mag-HONEY! Text HON<your name/hon's name> to 206! Ex. HON SAM/SAY P2.50/text.

Ringtones
Text TONE<keyword> to 209 Ex. TONE love1
Text POLY<keyword> to 209 Ex. POLY love1

Song Title	Keyword
Please Be Careful With My Heart	love1
If I'm Not In Love With You	love2
Kung Ako Na Lang Sana	love3
I'll Be	love4
What Matters Most	love5

Logos
Text LOGO<keyword> to 209 Ex. LOGO love6

Picture Messages
Text PIC<keyword> to 209 Ex. PIC love1

MMS Wallpapers
Text MMS<keyword> to 209 Ex. MMS love1

Themes
Text THEME LOVE to 209

'Di ka pa rin sinasagot? Subscribe to daily love quotes para makuha na ang matamis niyang OO! Text MAHAL ON to 291 P2.50/text.

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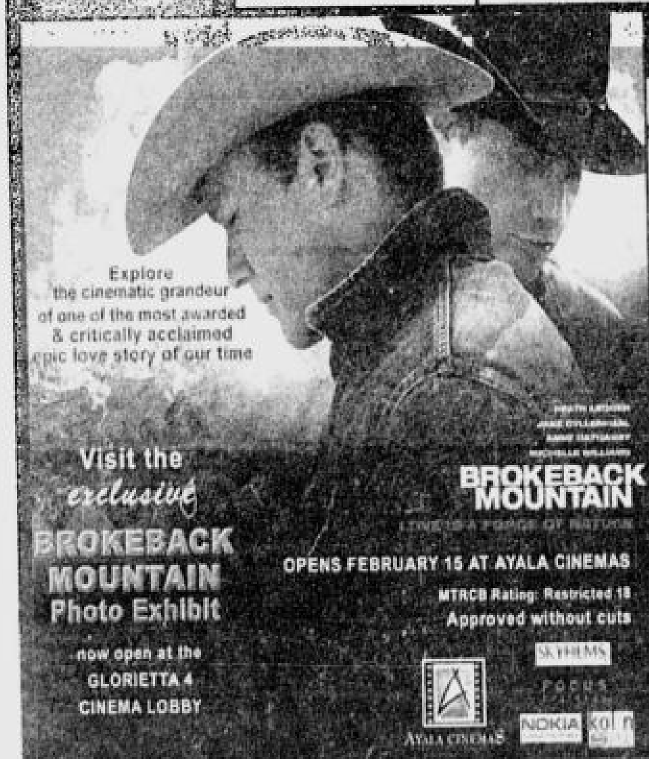
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1	FIREWALL	
	2	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	
	3	UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	
	4	FUN W/ DICK & JANE	
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	FUN W/ DICK & JANE	
	2	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	
	3 THX	THE NEW WORLD	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	DERAILED	
	5	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	
	6	FIREWALL	
	7	MUNICH	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	FUN W/ DICK & JANE	
	2	FIREWALL	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	THE NEW WORLD	GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	WALK THE LINE	GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	DERAILED	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	MUNICH	GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	FUN W/ DICK & JANE	GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	FIREWALL	
	2	THE NEW WORLD	
	3	FUN W/ DICK & JANE	
	4	MUNICH	
	5	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	FIREWALL	
	2	FUN W/ DICK & JANE	
	3	SAW 2	
	4	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	



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Featuring the stars of "I Will Always Love You", Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin

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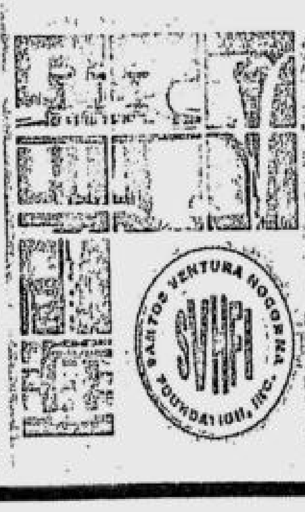
Event schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

Santos Ventura Hocorma Foundation, Inc.
Brass Band Concert
February 14, 6pm-8pm
Activity Center



Dumaguete cinemas close, blames piracy

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Silver Cinema, which operates Park and Ever theaters here, has announced that they are closing the two establishments as a direct result of "unabated video piracy."

Ed Du, consultant to Silver Cinema president Jimmy Yu, said it was no longer profitable to operate a movie house in Dumaguete. It turns out, he added, that Park and Ever were losing ventures since they opened in November 2001.

There two other movie houses in the city, both owned by Ultravision Cinema.

"The problem with Park," Du said, "is that it shows mostly English films—copies of which have already been sold all over the city by the time they are shown in the theater."

He lamented that raids conducted by Optical Media Board have done little to stop the pirates' activities.

"The losses incurred by these illegal traders as a result of one raid, they can quickly recover in one month. If they are raided only twice a year [it's nothing for them]," Du said. Ever theater shows mostly Tagalog films, he said, and so Silver Cinema executives believe it stands a better chance of surviving, if they decide to reopen it later. Du explained, "Tagalog films are not as easily pirated."

All four theaters here closed down in 1997 due to the 30 percent amusement tax imposed by the city government. They reopened five years later under a new managements, with the local government's assurance of a two-year moratorium on said taxes

Even so, Du said, the cinemas contined to bleed.

"We would have closed in 2004, but for the residents' requests for us to stay open. Now, we have little choice."

Du said other factors that contributed to the losses were the increase in power el-rates, and the 12 percent Expanded Value Added Tax.

"The only way for movie houses to become viable here is to open inside a mall. This could happen only once Robinsons opens in Barangay Calindagan," he said.

DID YOU KNOW...

REMEMBER **William Hung**, the unlikely—no, very unlikely—"Idol"? Never mind that he can't sing; he has cut an album with matching music video, and now stars in a Chinese movie entitled, "Where Is Mama's Boy."

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NEW WORLD PG13 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20	DERAILED R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	FIRE WALL PG13 11:55,2:25,4:55, 7:25,10:00

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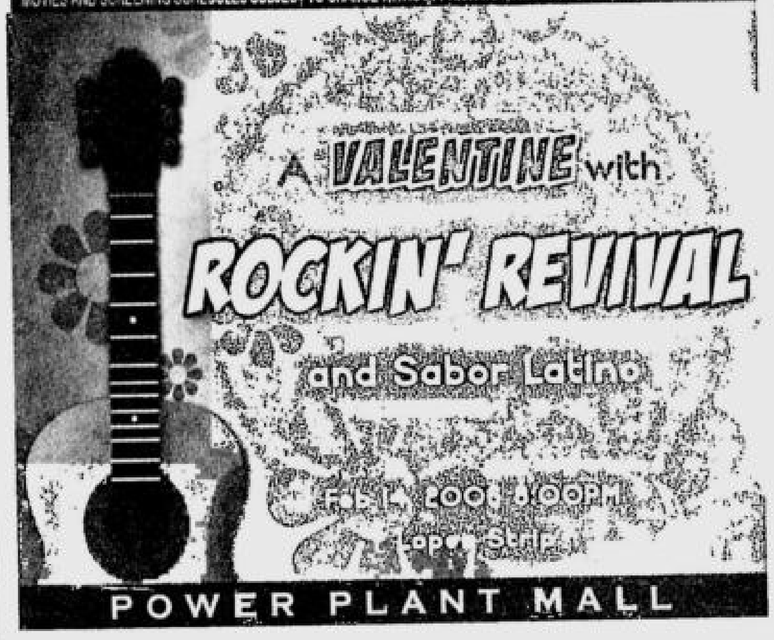

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I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	MUNICH 11:50 / 3:00 / 6:10 / 9:20	WALK THE LINE 6:40 / 9:30 ZATHURA 1:00 / 3:10	FIREWALL 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
UNDERWORLD 2 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 1:30 / 3:50	DERAILED 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40 SAW 2 6:45 / 9:00	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

ALIMALL CINEMAS

1	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:15 R4 / 1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35	2	FIREWALL 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15
			THE NEW WORLD 12:05 / 2:55 / 5:45 / 8:35
4	BLOODRAYNE 12:15 / 2:25 / 4:35 / 6:45 / 8:55	5	FUN WITH DICK & JANE 12:15 R2 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35

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Seems Harrison Ford did this while asleep

REVIEW

NEW YORK—HARRISON FORD COULD HAVE made "Firewall" in his sleep—and at times it feels like he did.

It's the most generic of high-tech kidnap thrillers — not even interesting enough to be guilty-pleasure bad. You'll be forgiven for confusing it with "Ransom" or "Hostage." They're all essentially interchangeable.

Ford growls defiantly at times—and the former Han Solo/Indiana Jones/Jack Ryan can still throw a punch at 63 — but mostly he just looks tired and bored as bank executive Jack Stanfield, whose family is held hostage inside their lavish Seattle home.

Paul Bettany is coolly sadistic as the head of the bank robbers, who burst into Jack's house and force him to hack into the security system he designed to help them steal $100 million.

Gag me

But Virginia Madsen—an Oscar nominee just one year ago for her superb supporting work in "Sideways"—is relegated here to playing the dutiful wife in peril. Sample line from the script by Joe Forte: "I already have a hobby. It's taking care of you," she coos to Jack with a kiss at the film's idyllic start. Gag me with a bottle of merlot.

If Ford can throw a punch, Madsen unfortunately can take one. Her character, Beth, and her children (Carly Schroeder and Jimmy Bennett) are needlessly subjected to an array of abuse. What Bettany's bad-boy Brit Bill Cox does to the couple's young son, having stalked them for months and knowing that the boy has a peanut allergy, is nothing short of deplorable.

Frantic

Beth tries to keep the kids calm by suggesting they think happy thoughts, like remembering the times the family has spent together on their boat. Yes, it is hard to relate to these people.

Meanwhile, Richard Loncraine, who also directed Bettany in a superior performance as a fading tennis star in "Wimbledon," tries to evoke suspense from keystrokes and green blips on a computer screen as Jack, Bill and various bank employees attempt to outfox each other electronically.

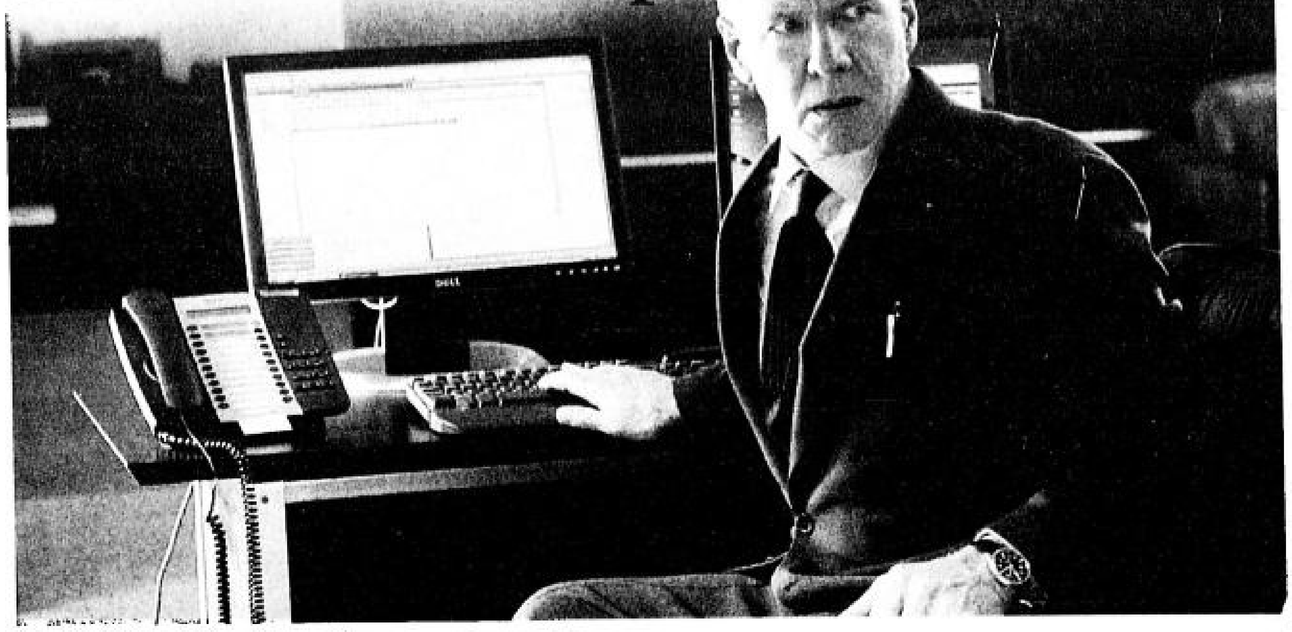
The score from Alexandre Desplat ("Birth," "Syriana") doesn't make matters more intense. Especially in a climactic brawl at the end — and really this is Stunt Fighting 101, complete with broken railings and smashed windows — the music just sounds frantic.

Indictment

Jack scurries around in the pouring rain (but never carries an umbrella, an uncharacteristic trait for someone who's so detail oriented and lives in Seattle) trying to lose the thugs who are constantly following him. And when he wonders how he's expected to go about his regular routine under constant surveillance and threats, Bill responds evenly, "You do your work, Jack. Chase that American dream."

So in the end, "Firewall" is really an indictment of our nation's greed? There's no way a movie with shootouts and exploding cars has anything quite so philosophical on its mind.

"Firewall," a Warner Bros. release, runs 100 minutes. One and a half stars out of four. Christy Lemire, AP



HARRISON Ford in "Firewall"

Of Indy and iPods

TAKE FIVE

HOW computer savvy are you?

I don't really know that much about computers. I spend more time getting it fixed than I do using it.

Your character in "Firewall" does clever things with his daughter's MP3 player. Do you listen to music in MP3 format?

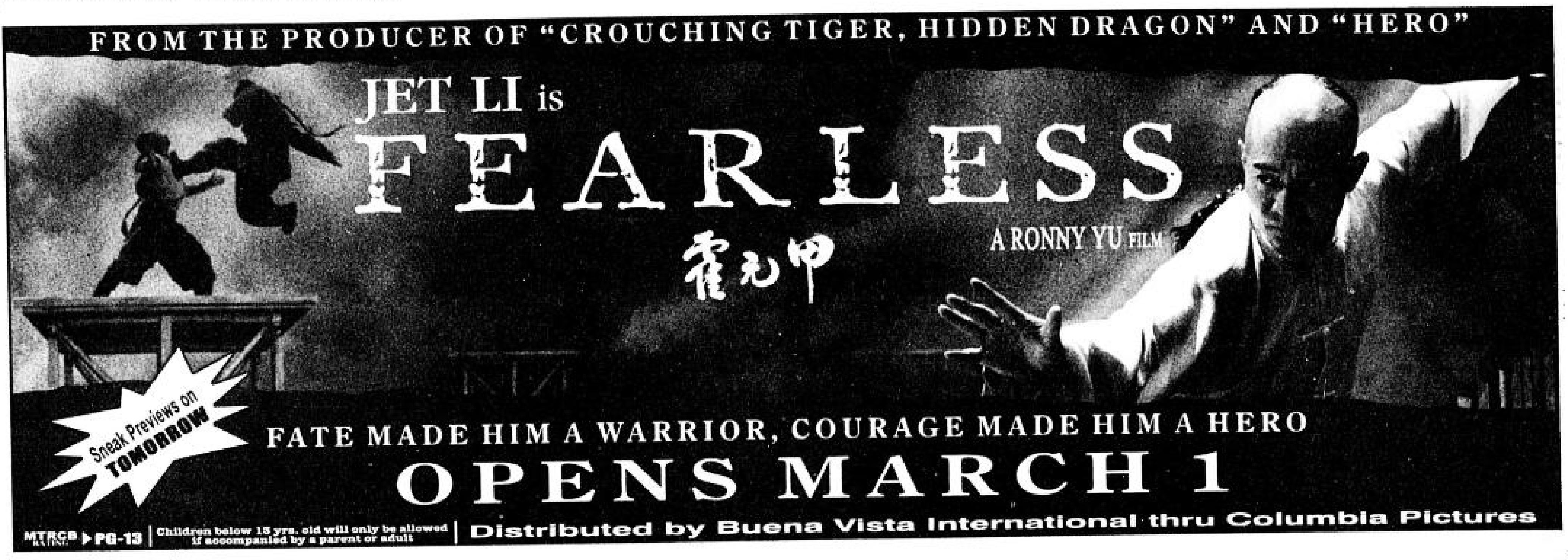
I have an iPod. I guess that's an MP3 player, right?

If you have a choice of listening to music on vinyl, CD, satellite radio or some other source, which would it be?

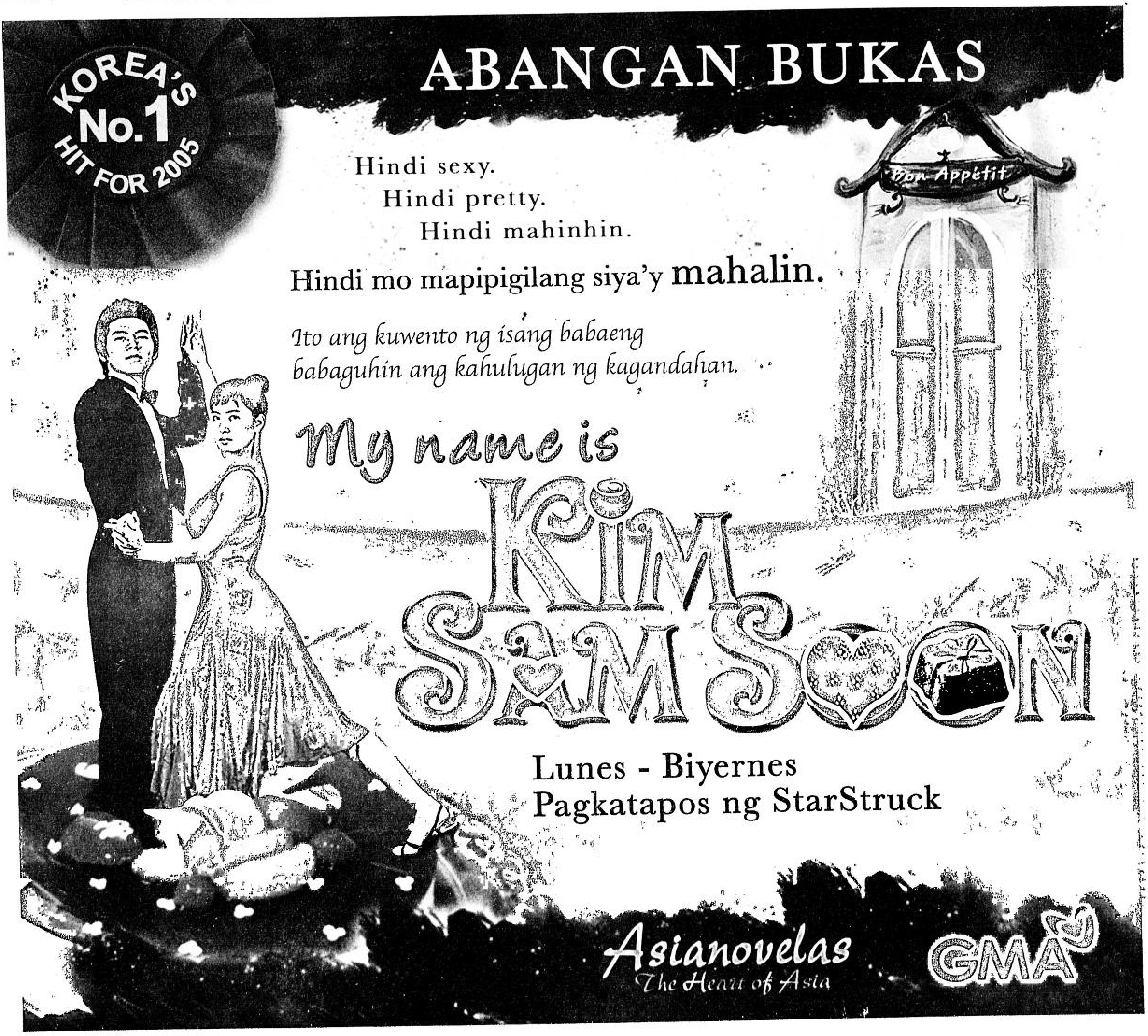
Probably vinyl.

AP: I see you have a multipurpose cell phone and handheld device. Do you use it for e-mail?

Ford: No. The last thing I want are e-mails to follow me around. *David Germain, AP*



FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"
JET LI is
FEARLESS
霍元甲
A RONNY YU FILM
Sneak Previews on TOMORROW
FATE MADE HIM A WARRIOR, COURAGE MADE HIM A HERO
OPENS MARCH 1
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult | Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



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GMA

21 biggest nominees in Grammy album

SPIN CITY

SONY BMG HAS RELEASED THE 2006 Grammy Nominees CD, a compilation of some of the songs and artists cited several major categories.

The CD features: "Feel Good Inc" by Gorillaz and "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" by Green Day; "It's Like That" by Mariah Carey and "Fine Line" by Paul McCartney; "Bless the Broken Road" by Rascal Flatts, "Devils and Dusts" by Bruce Springsteen and "Ordinary People" by John Legend; "Sitting, Waiting, Wishing" by Jack Johnson, "Walk On By" by Seal, "Lonely No More" by Rob Thomas and "From the Bottom of My Heart" by Stevie Wonder.

"Since U Been Gone" by Kelly Clarkson and "Good is Good" by Sheryl Crow; "Speed of Sound" by Coldplay, "Best of You" by Foo Fighters, "Rain Fall Down" by The Rolling Stones and "The Painter" by Neil Young; "E-Pro" by Beck, "Soul Meets Body" by Death Cab For Cutie and "Do You Want To" by Franz Ferdinand.

Core of Soul

Core of Soul Core of Soul, a trio from Japan composed of vocalist Fukiko Nakamura, guitarist/bassist Song Rui and keyboardist/synthesizer artist Keisuke Iisuka, is set to visit the Philippines through Japan Foundation Manila.

The group's new album, "Over The Time, Time Is Over" is a chartbuster in their homeland.

First Impression

The Strokes recently released their third album, "First Impressions of Earth."

"First Impression" was recorded at the band's Manhattan rehearsal studio, with David Kahne as producer.

JOHN Legend

Early feedback say it's "the most diverse Strokes record to date... heavier and more gigantic than anything they've done before."

Regine's Covers

Regine Velasquez's "Covers 2" is made up of foreign pop favorites presented in innovative arrangements.

"I picked out songs rarely recorded by other artists," said the Songbird.

"Covers 2" is available on Viva Records tapes and CDs.

2nd from Franz

Scottish group Franz Ferdinand makes a bold statement on their sophomore release titled, "You Could Have It So Much Better," released by Sony BMG Music.

CORE OF SOUL

The album landed the top spot in the UK charts on its first week. Respected publications Time, Rolling Stones and Spine were cited the band's signature dance punk style with such cuts such as "Take Me Out," "The Dark of the Matinee," "Darts of Pleasure" and "This Fire."

Locally "You Could Have it So Much Better" has also been praised by both avant-garde and mainstream communities. The album spawned the hit "Do You Want To," which peaked at the third slot on rock radio charts. The new single, "The Fallen," is fast becoming another radio and video favorite.

The CD is now available in major outlets nationwide.

THE BOX OFFICE VALENTINE MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

AMY AUSTRIA · JEAN GARCIA · LLOYD SAMARTINO · SUZETTE RANILLO · MIRIAM PANTIG · EHRA MADRIGAL · KAREN DE LOS REYES
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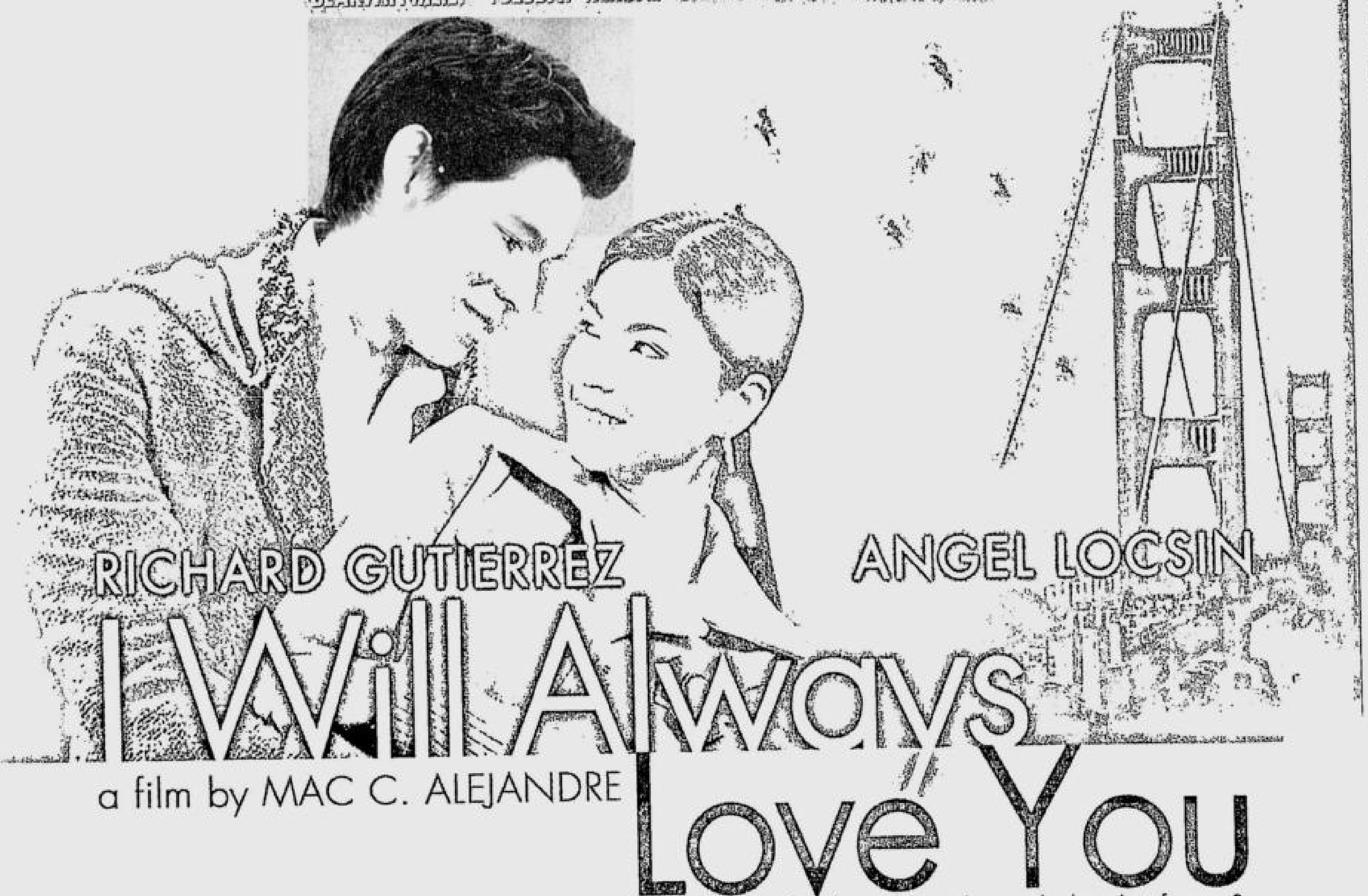

a film by MAC C. ALEJANDRE

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MTRCB RATING GP

www.regalfilms.com/iwillalwaysloveyou

Watch "I Will Always Love You" and get a chance to win P100,000 cash, a trip to Hong Kong, and other amazing prizes! Here's how to join:

1. Every purchase of one (1) I Will Always Love You movie ticket in all participating cinemas from February 10 to 19, 2006 entitles you to one (1) raffle ticket.
2. Fill up the coupon with your name, address, telephone number and signature and drop in drop boxes located at the theater lobby.
3. Raffle ticket/s must be dropped in drop boxes on or before February 19, 2006.
4. Grand Draw will be held on February 23, 2006 at Eat Bulaga between 1:30-2:30PM. All entries will be consolidated at Eat Bulaga, Broadway Centrum where up for grabs are the following:
One (1) Grand Prize winner - PhP 100,000.00 cash

Other prizes:
Three (3) winners of roundtrip tickets to Hong Kong Disneyland for two for four days-three nights
Five (5) winners of Sanyo ST-21G1 53.34 cm (21") TV sets
Five (5) winners of Sanyo SR-S63DW 0.18cum (6 cu. Ft.) refrigerators Direct Cool
Five (5) winners of American Heritage AHMO-2032 microwave ovens
Five (5) winners of American Heritage AHWD-93 water dispensers
Five (5) winners of IPod Shuffle 512 MB M-9724ZP/A
Ten (10) winners of Orange DVD players
Ten (10) winners of Nokia 1100
Four (4) winners of M2923B 50.8cm (20") Easy Rider bicycles
Three (3) winners of American Home AWT-631P washing machines w/ dryer
Two (2) La Germania SL530-00W gas ranges

5. Winners can only win once. In the event that a name is picked more then once, he/she will get the price of higher value.
6. Winners will be contacted by phone and/or registered mail.
7. Present the winning raffle claim stub and one (1) valid ID when claiming the prizes.
8. Prizes should be claimed at the Regal Entertainment, Inc. office at #38 Valencia St. Quezon City
beginning February 24, 2006. The winner must claim his prize within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Failure to claim within the allotted time duration forfeits the winner's right over the prize with prior DTI approval.
9. NMI shall contact winners outside Metro Manila and let them choose whether they want to receive their prize via courier or claim it at the Regal Office. Winners shall shoulder all shipping costs.
10. All employees of GMA Network Inc., GMA New Media Inc., Regal Entertainment, Inc., participating cinemas and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0883, series of 2006

ROUNDUP

Valentine picks

"Family Plan" premieres on Feb. 14 at 9 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel. Tori Spelling plays a workaholic bachelorette who pretends to have a happy family life to impress her new boss. She hires an unemployed actor (Jordan Bridges) to play her husband. Will she pull it off or will she fall for her fake hubby?

Other features this month on Hallmark: "McLeod's Daughters," "Family Law," "Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye," "Judging Amy," "Midsomer Murders," "Doc Martin," "Child of Our Time," and "The Nanny."

Cinemadali

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Committee on Cinema, in cooperation with the Film Academy of the Philippines, invites all Filipino filmmakers to join Cinemadali Short Film Competition 2006.

Cinemadali is one of the multimedia activities under "Cinema Luneta," ongoing until Feb. 18.

Entries can be shot using any medium. Any genre of fiction or documentary is welcome. Deadline is Feb. 15.

First prize winner will receive P12,000; second place, P8,000; and three runners-up, P3,000 each.

Downloadable entry forms are available at www.pinoyindie.com and www.fapweb.org

For inquiries, call the NCCA Committee on Cinema (Lala Hinlo), 527-2209 locs. 508 and 509 or e-mail cinemadali@gmail.com

Hermits in Manila

Herman's Hermits, the 1960s' hit group led by vocalist Peter Noone, is due in Manila for two shows—at the Araneta Coliseum on March 17 and at the Manila Hotel on March 18.

Titled "Herman's Hermits Starring Peter Noone: Live All Over the World," the two shows will feature the vocalist behind the hits "Mrs. Brown, You Have a Lovely Daughter," "Silhouettes," and "I'm Into Something Good," among others.

Trivia book

Film buff Jessie B. Garcia's "A Movie Album Quizbook" was launched at Powerbooks Greenbelt recently.

A five-time Palanca winner, Garcia has crafted this 400-page book filled with Pinoy show biz facts and trivia.

Among the stars featured in the book are Rosa del Rosario, Gloria Romero, Sharon Cuneta and Claudine Barretto.

Garcia is a teacher of literature, drama and film in Iloilo City.

Proud Pinoy

Filipino stand-up comic Gino Cervantes made a name for himself in Singapore in the early 1990s. In spite of his success in the Lion City, he still wanted to try his luck in his own country. In 2001, he began performing in local bars like Punchline, Music Box and Stars Venue.

GINO Cervantes

He's currently a regular at Himalaya Café, Funline, Superpocket Bar and Bigshots Bar.

Gino will have his second show at the Music Museum on Feb. 23, with "Eat Bulaga" mainstay Julia Clarete as special guest.

Gino also dreams of someday making it big in the US. "We are good in English," he says. "We can cross over with our creativity, wit, talent and charm."

MTV gem

ERIK Santos sings with Regine Velasquez in "Bakit Ba Inibig Kita?" composed by Ogie Alcasid. The MTV is directed by Joyce Bernal and produced by Star Records' Joji Mangabat. It was shot by award-winning cinematographer Charlie Peralta.

Bituin Escalante on success and surviving hard times

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

BITUIN Escalante

AS A SINGER, BITUIN ESCALANTE has proven capable of straddling pop music and theater. As a person she's very opinionated and, though not exactly jobless these days, recommends to struggling colleagues a field that offers a way through hard times—call centers.

You were gone for a while.

I was in the US for three months performing with the Apo [Hiking Society].

Have you recorded an album?

I've done two with Viva. The first was a producer's album, meaning it was all laid out for me. For the second one, I was allowed to pick my collaborators and I chose Moy Ortiz (of The Company) and Margot and Edith Gallardo. My friends said it didn't sound like me at all. I was happy with it, though. I was sort of playing different characters in that album.

Is that why you're doing theater, because you like playing characters?

I was already acting in the drama guild back in college at UP Los Baños. But professionally I auditioned only on a dare, you know, for kicks. That was in 1996 for Celeste Legaspi and Nestor Torre in "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?" I've since done musical theater, which isn't so far off the mark.

You have this earthy appeal that you put to good use in theater.

I've never thought about that. But right now I'm doing a character named Asaka, Mother of the Earth, in a musical called "Once On This Island." Director Bart Guingona explained to the cast that it's about propagating legends, how culture shapes people, although most of us would rather hear that it's also a love story.

TAKE FIVE

What kind of music do you sing in the play?

Happy music, which I thought I didn't like at first. I remember the time I did "Rent" because I also didn't like its music, although I eventually did.

Who are your idols?

I'm a big fan of [the late] Freddie Mercury and Madonna—provocateurs, not afraid to explore. When news broke that Freddie had died, *iyakan kaming magkakapatid.* Freddie can sing something as stupid as "Fat Bottomed Girls" and make it sound cool.

Who named you Bituin?

When I was being baptized, the priest asked, "Ano'ng pangalan ng bata?" My *lola* answered, "*Bituin, galing sa langit.*" Once on TV the emcee asked why I was named Bituin, and I said, "I wanted to be a star as soon as I was born." I was only joking, but the emcee thought I was serious.

Do you always do that?

No, but I have a way of imagining situations when I'm alone. Like, I can talk to myself and assume different characters… Incidentally, there's a new kind of job that's perfect for actors who want to augment their income.

What job?

Call centers! Imagine you can act out all your fantasies and assume different characters with nobody seeing you. I mean, when you do telemarketing and try to sell something you don't really care or know about, isn't it a form of play-acting? It's a dream job. If Jamie Wilson and Miguel Faustmann could do it on the side, I'd like to try, too!

NEIL Young and filmmaker Jonathan Demme AP

Angst-rock star makes ultimate US family film

LOS ANGELES—NEIL YOUNG, ICONOCLASTIC troubadour for decades of counter-culture in the United States, has made the ultimate American family film.

It seems ironic but it is true, says Jonathan Demme, who directed "Neil Young: Heart of Gold," now playing in US theaters.

"Family film" is associated with Disney and Pixar and stuffed toys. Young's song "Needle and the Damage Done" speaks of heroin addiction, and he will forever be linked to 1960s and 1970s anti-war protests. Since then, the 60-year-old has become a standard-bearer for angst-ridden teen rockers.

CHEER FACTOR

Yet, in "Heart of Gold," the Canadian-born Young and Demme have created what they dub a "dream concert" of songs from his recent "Prairie Wind" album and older "Harvest" and "Harvest Moon" records that conjure spirits of country-and-western music's past and visions of a simple life in the North American heartland.

"It puts me in touch with some deeply felt, old-fashioned, powerful ideas about what America stands for, what the family stands for, what friends stand for," Demme told Reuters in a joint interview with Young.

"Heart of Gold" is a concert, but don't call it a "concert film," its makers said. Young, his band and friends like Emmylou Harris perform 19 songs, each one elaborately staged over two nights in Nashville's Ryman Auditorium 4—first home of the Grand Ole Opry.

It is not a documentary, but Demme and Young said the songs, lyrics and their interpretations onscreen give audiences insight into the man because so much of the music is rooted in Young's personal history.

Critics rave

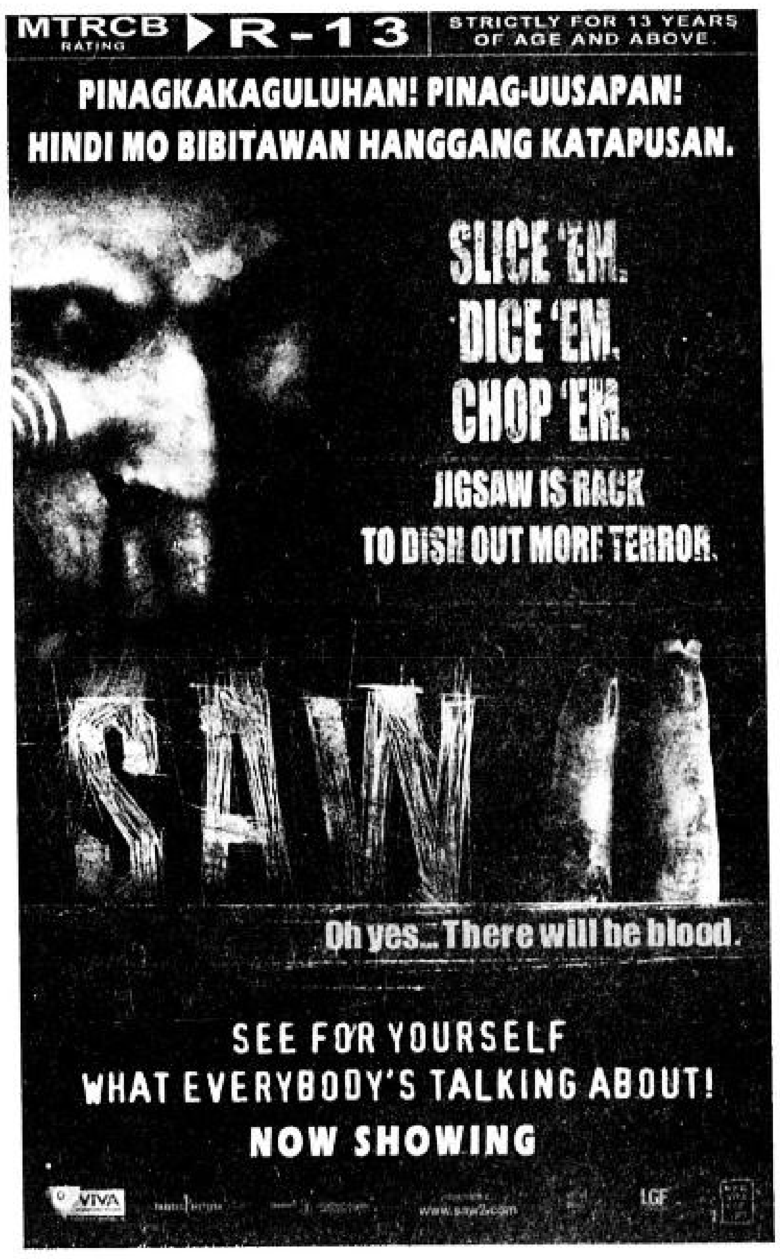
The movie premiered last month at the Sundance Film Festival to a standing ovation, and for the most part, critics are raving about its combination of music and storytelling.

Demme is known as the Oscar-winning director of Hollywood movies like thriller "Silence of the Lambs," but among his works are the Talking Heads' 1984 concert film "Stop Making Sense."

He and Young met when Demme was working on 1993's "Philadelphia," and he asked the musician to write music for the movie.

Young said he likes Demme because the director possesses a positive energy that shows in his work, and he makes people around him feel like winners.

Demme, 61, said he matured listening to Young's music, which he said helped him come to terms with his feelings about the world and his place in it. *Bob Tourtellotte, Reuters*



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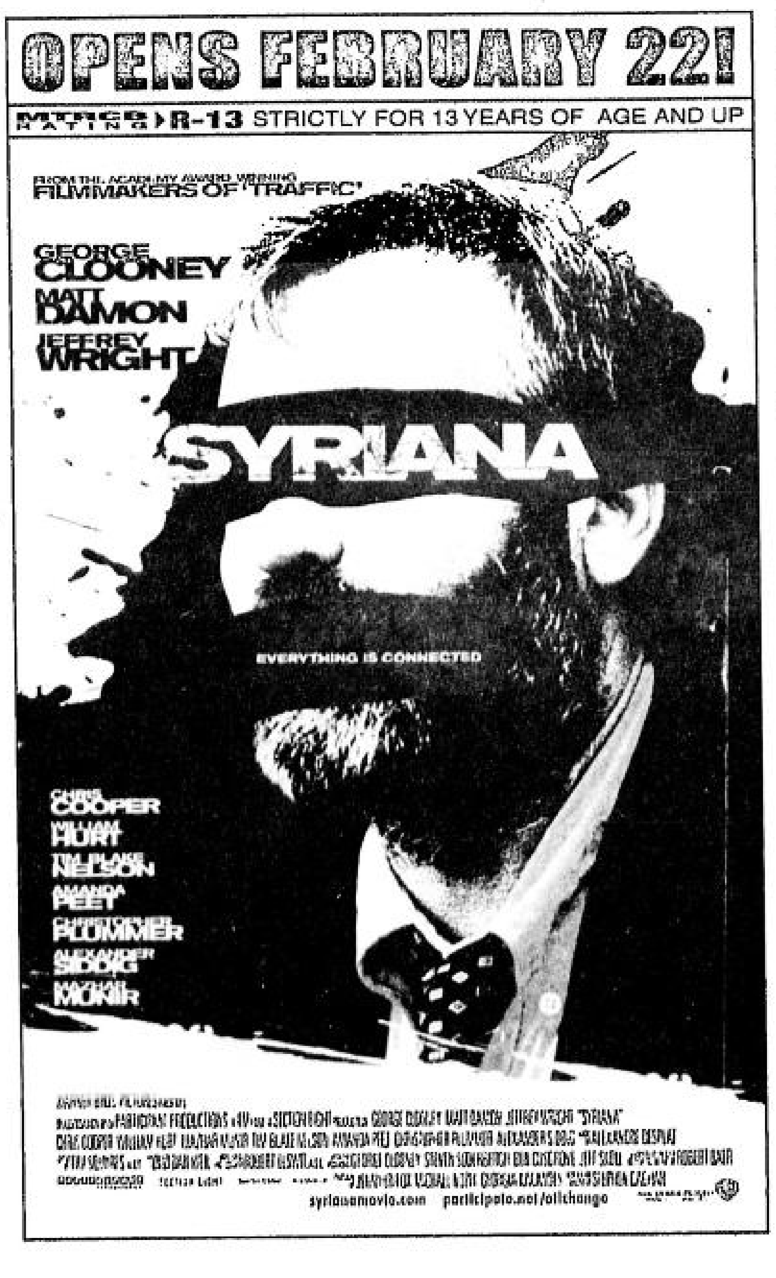

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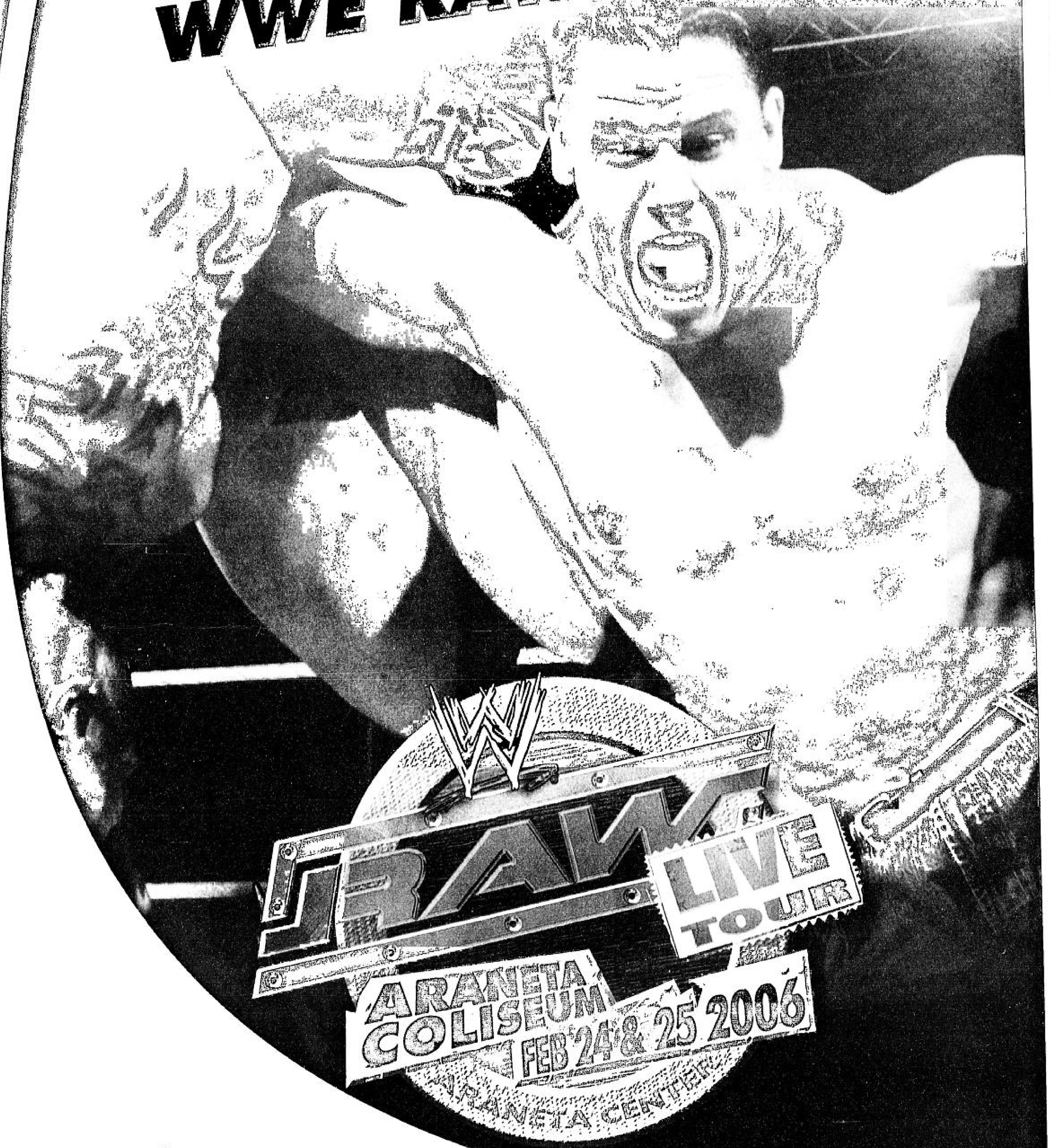
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CHOOSE YOUR Valentine SHOW

So Much In Love

Star: Nyoy Volante and Nina
Date: Feb. 14
Place: Edsa Shangri-la

NINA and Nyoy Volante

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

Nina: If I have a special someone, I celebrate it with that special person. Otherwise, I celebrate with my family.

Nyoy: Since I started working, I never had a Valentine's Day without work.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

Nina: This (the concert) could be it.

Nyoy: Still planning it!

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Nina: I'm with the person I love and who loves me.

Nyoy: Time out in Boracay

Who is your fantasy Valentine date?

Nina: Freddie Prinze, Jr.

Nyoy: Nina *lang, eh—'la nang iba!*

What, for you, is the most romantic love song?

Nina: "Last Time" by Eric Bennet

Nyoy: "Naaalala Ka!"

Other than you or your co-stars, who would you like to watch this Valentine's Day?

Nina: A foreign artist like, maybe Patti Austin, James Ingram...

Nyoy: Boyz II Men

Why should we watch your show? What can your audience expect?

Nina: You will experience falling in love, even after the show.

Nyoy: Aside from the great music, the love's gonna be real!

My Funny Valentine

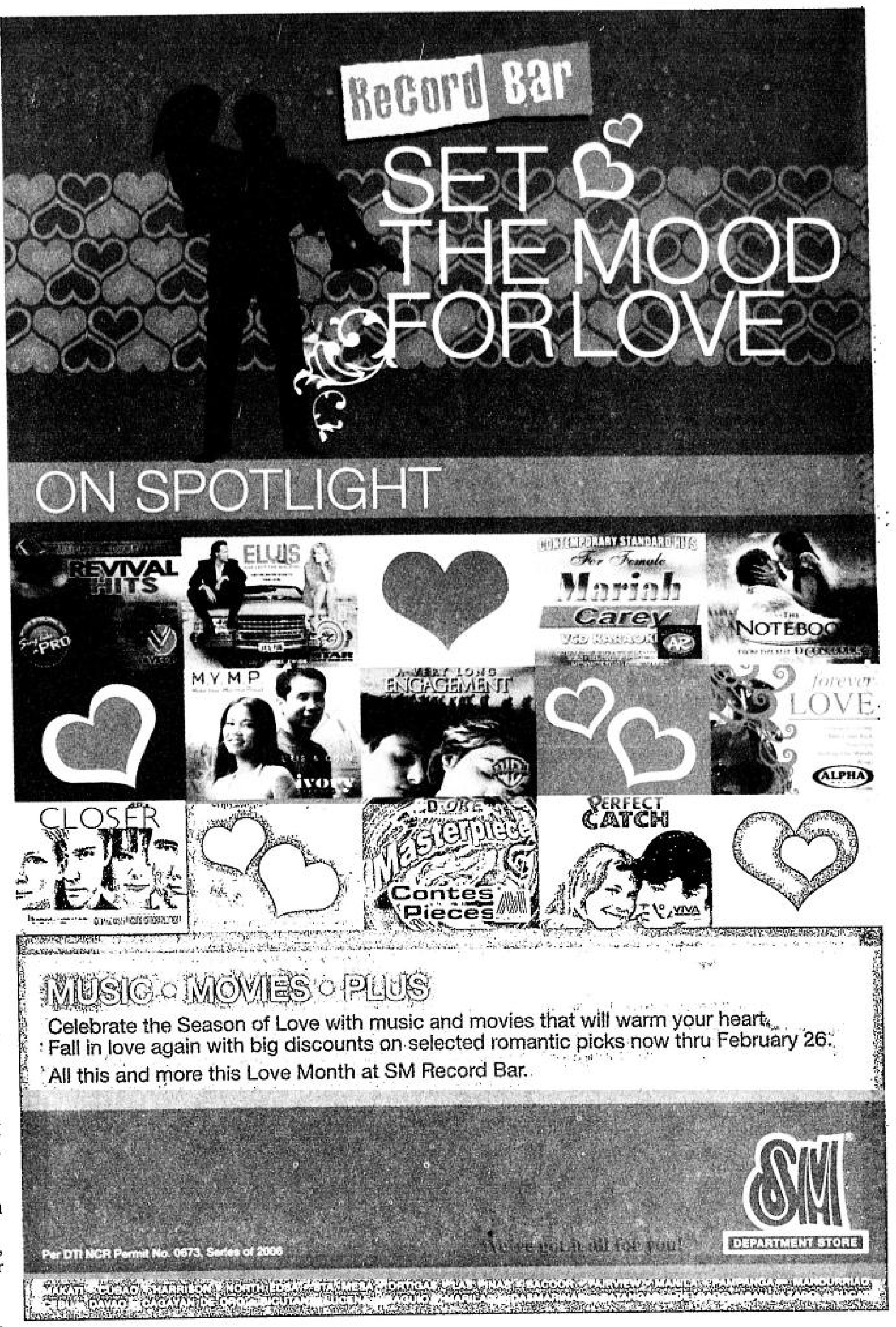
Star: Rex Navarrete

Venue: SM North Edsa (Feb. 17), SM Southmall (Feb. 18), SM Megamall (Feb. 24), SM Baguio (Feb. 25)

When you're not doing a show, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

I usually hang out with other single friends, talking about the wisdom of being single for now.

CHOOSE/ A5-2



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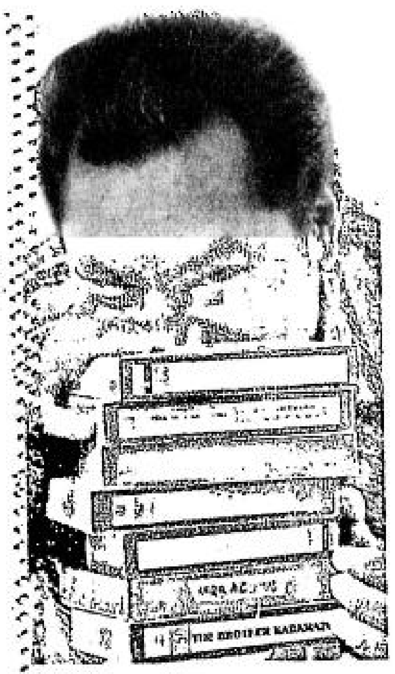


REX Navarette

From page A5-1

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever experienced?

The closest would be flying across the Pacific from San Francisco to see a girlfriend.

What's an ideal Valentine's date?

Going to a nice place to dine and listening to some live music afterwards—somewhere not crowded; somewhere secluded but not too far.

Who's your fantasy date?

Jennifer Connelly.

What's the most romantic love song?

"So Very Hard to Go" by Tower of Power. It's not very traditional, but it's got a lot of love in it.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

My buddy Ogie Alcasid.

Why should we watch your show? What can the audience expect?

Don't expect me to talk too much about love and being in a relationship is. Been there, done that. I might just blow the cover on love's silliness. Who knows, I might even break up some couples. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

All About Love

Star: Ladine Roxas
Guests: Rizza Navales, Mae Rivera and Triple J.
Musical Director: Elmer Blancaflor
Director: Mr. Apollo of Primeline
Venue: Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza

Why should people watch your show? What can the audience expect?

Ladine: The show hopes to raise funds for the Carmel of St. Joseph monastery in Lucena City and the Carmel of the Incarnate Word monastery in San Pablo City. We will perform lots of songs that will touch the hearts of the audience. I know that most of them will be in their 30s, so most of the songs will be from that generation. One part of the show will be all-*kundiman*. It is our tribute to the forerunners of Original Pilipino Music. I feel younger people should get to know the *kundiman*, which is really beautiful and timeless. Only Filipino singers can do justice to these songs.

"Classic Romance"

Star: Raymond Lauchengco
Date: Feb. 14
Guests: Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Ayen Munji-Laurel
Musical director: Jun Latonio
Stage director: Roxanne Lapus
Venue: Rockwell Tent

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

My wife and I try to outdo each other in preparing a mind-blowing surprise. One year, I prepared a candlelit dinner for her on the rooftop—complete with sofa, rug and kitchenette. It took me three days to set it up.

LADINE Roxas

RAYMOND Lauchengco

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever experienced?

The year after the rooftop dinner, she prepared an exotic seafood meal for me and joined an INQUIRER Valentine contest ... and won! That floored me.

What's your dream Valentine's date?

What's important is that you're with the person you love. Everything else is just icing on the cake. It helps to be on a beautiful beach or some mountaintop under the stars. But if I find myself in a gas station with an overheated radiator, I couldn't care less as long as my wife is with me.

Who is your fantasy date?

Sorry, all my fantasies involve my wife. I know it sounds corny, but it's true! Even Nicole Kidman has begged to enter my dreams, but there's simply no room for anyone else.

What's the most romantic love song?

"What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life" by Michel Legrand.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch this year?

Andy Williams.

Why should we watch your show? What can the audience expect?

I've always wanted to do a show that was elegant, romantic and very intimate. The world has become a very high-tech place and even concerts are now music video-ish. With this one, I hope to bring back old-world tenderness, sincerity and charm. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

"This Game Called Love"

Star: Jenine Desiderio
Guests: Marco Sison and Jimmy Bondoc
Date: Feb. 14
Venue: New Airport Casino Theater
Musical director: Toti Fuentes

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

This happened only once. I went out on a date with my daughter Janella (now seven). We had dinner at Max Brenner. We both love chocolates! Yum!

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever experienced?

One spent in Disneyland in Anaheim, California, with someone special.

What's your dream Valentine's date?

A nicely set dinner for two overlooking a wonderful view; the place smelling heavenly with rose petals; a violinist in a tux playing romantic music. On my plate would be a poem or a song written by him for me; and I have to really like the person, otherwise it won't mean a thing.

JENINE Desiderio

Who is your fantasy date?

Colin Farrell or Enrique Iglesias, please!

What's the most romantic love song?

"The Way You Look Tonight" and "Beautiful in My Eyes."

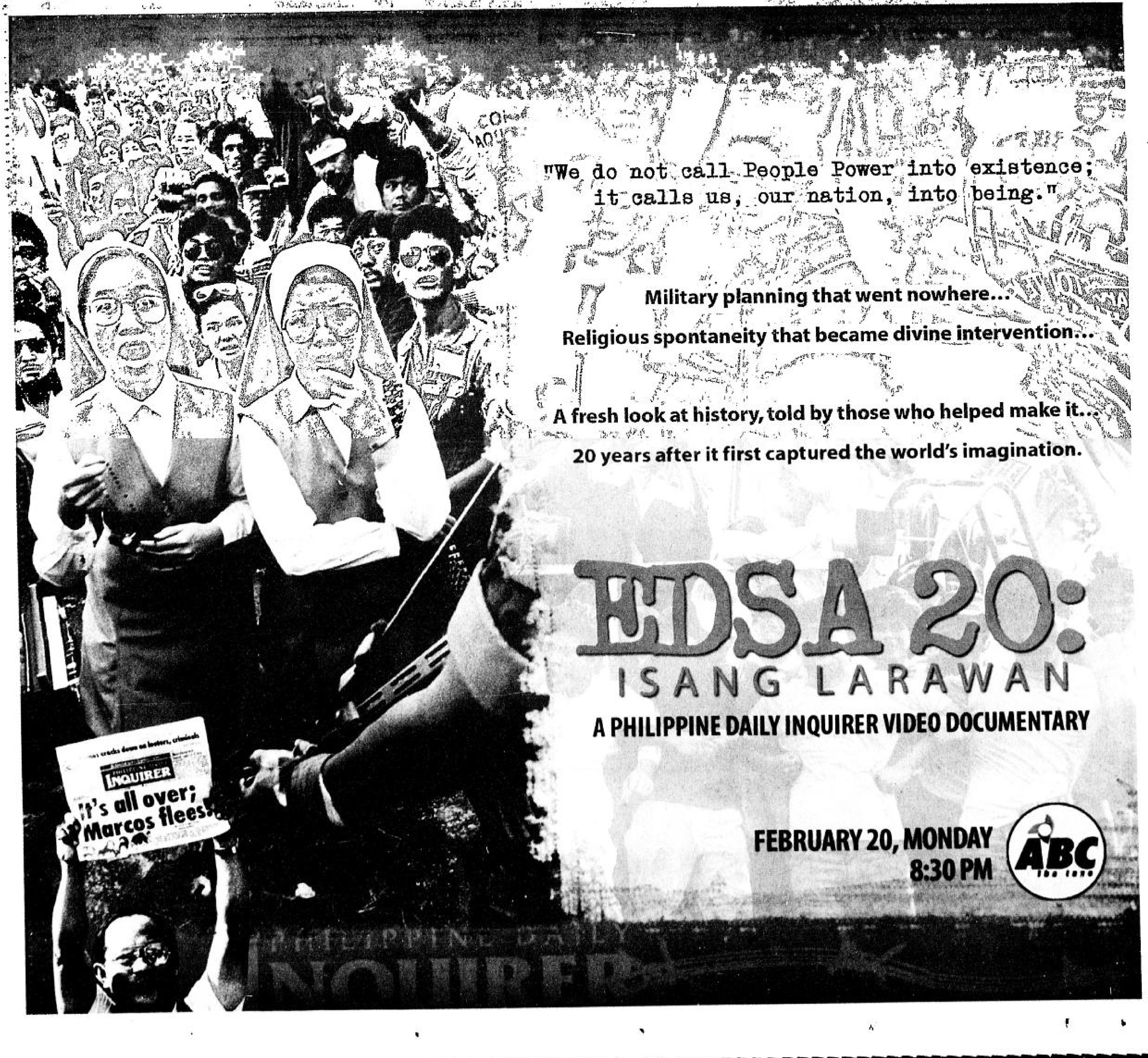
If you were not doing a show, who would you watch this year?

Ogie and Regine's show seems interestingly different.

Why should we watch your show? What can the audience expect?

Year after year, people see the same artists doing Valentine shows. I will provide a very good alternative. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

CHOOSE/ A5-3



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CHOOSE YOUR Valentine SHOW

SHOW TIME

Tonight

From page A5-2

"My Mega Valentine" with Megastar **Sharon Cuneta** at the **Araneta Coliseum**. Call 911-5555.

Tomorrow

Kalapana at the **PICC**. Call 891-9999 and 871-7577

"Hearts in Season" with **Janet Basco, Ivy Violan, Dulce** and **Miguel Castro** at the **Manila Peninsula Rigodon Ballroom**

OJ Mariano and **Czarina Rosales** at **Suburbia**

9th Avenue at **Virgin Café**

AiAi delas Alas in "Ai-shteru" (Ai-lab-u) at **Klownz Araneta**

"Betcha By Golly Love" with **Aretha** and the **Souled Out Band** at **Merk's Bar Bistro**

The CompanY at **19 East Music Hall** along South Super Highway, Sucat, Parañaque

The Tiongco Brothers and **Marri Nallos** at **The Frontpage Piano Bar** at T.M. Kalaw St., Manila. Call 523-3367.

RJ and Friends at **Camp Aguinaldo Theater** for a fund-raising concert for Pasay City Streetchildren; 8 p.m. Call 899-3108

Suzy Unas at **Manila Pavilion Boulvar Lounge**

Groovewerk at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

February 14

Kalapana at the **PICC**. Call 891-9999 and 871-7577

Andy Williams Live! at the **Araneta Coliseum**

Rico J. Puno at the **Manila Hotel** with guests **K Brosas** and **Danita Paner**

Rannie Raymundo, Tessa Garcia and the **Philharmonic Orchestra** at the **Hotel Philippine Plaza**

"Betcha By Golly Love" with **Aretha** and the **Souled Out Band** at **Merk's Bar Bistro**

DK Tijam at **Suburbia**

Freeway at **Virgin Café**

AiAi delas Alas in "Ai-shteru" (Ai-lab-u) at **Klownz Araneta**

The CompanY at **Brittany Bay** (Sucat) with Beth Martin on the acoustic grand piano

RJ and Friends at the **Manila Polo Club**; 9 p.m. Call 899-3108

Lance Raymundo at Manila Pavilion **Boulvar Lounge**; 8:30 p.m.

Kearny Street at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Bamboo at **Metropolis Star Alabang**; 7 p.m.

Leggierro Strings at **Taste Buds**, Robinsons Place Manila

Star In A Million's **Lance Onate** at **Ratsky Tomas Morato**

Feb. 15

Kalapana at the **Waterfront Hotel** in Cebu. Call 891-9999 and 871-7577

Silk at **Suburbia**

Side A at **Virgin Café**

Savannah at **Merk's**, Greenbelt 3

Boyfriends at **RJ Guitar Bar**

RJ at Discovery Suites' **Serendipity Lounge**

Jeli Mateo at Manila Pavilion **Boulvar Lounge**

Ntwine at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

Human Things at **Taste Buds**, Robinsons Place Manila

Star In A Million's **Lance Onate** and **Randy Santiago** at **Ratsky Malate**

Feb. 16

Nyoy Volante and **Freeverse** at **Suburbia**

Mocha at **Virgin Café**

RJ and Friends at **L.A. Café Bar and Restaurant** for a fund-raising concert for Pasay City Streetchildren; 8 p.m. Call 899-3108

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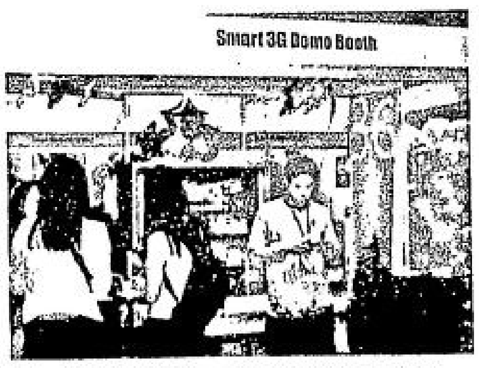
SMART President Napoleon L. Nazareno (far left) with the 3 winning teams: (L-R) Xavier Cagayan de Oro (2nd place), Ateneo de Manila University (Champion) and Ateneo de Manila University (3rd place)

SMART's Champions of Innovation and Excellence

The best campus engineering minds battled it out last February 3 and 4 at the Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall as Smart Communications Inc. (SMART) played host to the search for the best wireless services applications developed by student-faculty teams under the SMART Wireless Engineering Education Program (SWEEP).

Reaping the rewards: Three outstanding SMART Schools Training Coordinators receive high-end phones as well as a one year enrollment extension for their respective schools in Microsoft's IT Academy

SMART executives Ramon Fernandez (2nd from left) and Roland Peña (3rd from left) take the lead in opening SWEEP Awards 2006



The SMART 3G Demo Booth draws curious visitors

Free internet surfing at the PLDT Vibe booth

Vyll Roxannie Tinampay accepts her award for winning the PalaECEpan quiz bee

Ateneo de Manila University's "Atlas" emerged as the champion of the 2nd SWEEP Innovation and Excellence Awards, besting nine other finalists out of 57 entries in the country's biggest inter-collegiate wireless applications competition for engineering students.

Led by 5th year Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) student Benjamin Intal and members Alfonzo Sabado, Marvin Go, Antonio Nuñez and Angela Aninao, the winning team developed an application that provides motorists and commuters with directions and an MMS map along with helpful information.

"I felt proud because I believed our team had a chance to win," said Intal. "SMART SWEEP encourages schools and ECE students to excel in their respective fields," he added. For their innovation and excellence, the champions walked away with the ₱300,000 grand prize and trophy.

Second place went to Xavier University Cagayan de Oro for their "Home Integration System" developed by Michael Chaves and Jeffrey Duria. The "SMART Calendar" entry, developed by Rod Michael P. Coronel, Cathleen Anne S. Paras and Ella C. Yap of Ateneo de Manila University won third place.

The second and third placers received ₱200,000 and ₱100,000 respectively. Schools of the winning teams will be receiving the corresponding amount of cash prizes in the form of grants.

Meanwhile, Xavier University's Vyll Roxannie Tinampay triumphed as the PalaECEpan quiz bee champion, beating representatives from 33 SWEEP schools. Tinampay, the lone female finalist, bagged ₱30,000 in cash plus a high-end mobile phone.

SWEEP is the industry-academe partnership program of SMART that aims to help raise the level of engineering education, particularly in the field of ECE. The SWEEP Awards is open to all partner schools under SWEEP in recognition of the ingenuity and creativity of students and faculty mentors in developing wireless services applications that will benefit the school and the community it serves.

"This is our way of giving budding engineering students an opportunity to shine by recognizing their technological know-how and creativity." said Rolando G. Peña, SMART networks services division head.

This year's event featured various activities for students that included the PLDT group job fair, a SMART IT recruitment event, SMART 3G demos, as well as seminars, interactive booths, and a mini-concert featuring popular bands Spongecola and Kjwan.

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Rubber industry bounces back

RUBBER was introduced to the country in 1905.

LYN RILLON

By Ryan D. Rosauro
PDI Mindanao Bureau

EVERY TUESDAY, THE HINTERLAND VILLAGES of RT Lim town in Zamboanga Sibugay come to life. During this day, traders round up rubber farmers to buy their produce.

Bringing with them large hauling trucks, the traders take in as much as the rubber planters can offer for sale.

The inflow of money from these transactions has perked up the economy of the villages and has also encouraged more members of the indigenous Subanen tribe and other upland farmers to cultivate rubber to improve their lot.

Indeed, after nearly becoming an insignificant produce in terms of development contribution due to policy neglect, rubber has bounced back to provide hope of economic advancement to people who have long been confined to poverty.

The good prospect for rubber trading in the international market has driven the rebirth of the industry in the country.

Aiming to optimize gains in trading their produce amid this highly favorable market condition, around 400 small rubber planters in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, have banded together into a marketing association.

So far, the boldest local development program anchored on the market potentials of the crop is that of North Cotabato.

Banking on an ambitious 10-year rubber development program to transform the war-torn and rebel-infested province "from battlefields to fields of economic productivity," it was hoped that areas planted to rubber would expand to at least one million hectares with 500 million trees.

THE CROP is helping indigenous tribes earn a better living.

With the program, the industry is expected to turn in over P100 billion in foreign exchange earnings, generate 500,000 more jobs and contribute P2.5 billion pesos in local taxes.

Cultivation history

A brief prepared by the Philippine Rubber Board Inc. (PRBI), said the crop was introduced into the country by the Menzi Agricultural Corp. in Basilan in 1905, at about the same time Malaysia and Indonesia began their rubber industry.

Commercial production in the Menzi farm began in 1914. By 1915, another big plantation, the Rio Grande Rubber Estate, was established in Kabacan, Cotabato.

Later, the entry of more multinational corporations in large-scale plantation develop ment led to increased cultivation of rubber throughout Mindanao particularly in Basilan, Zamboanga del Sur and Cotabato provinces.

Aided by technicians of big plantations, local planters in smaller farms also cultivated rubber.

To cater to the demand for training in rubber planting techniques, the then Mindanao

RUBBER/ B2

Key to peace in Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—RUBBER-GROWING MAY just be the key to peace, government officials in North Cotabato believe.

In fact, provincial officials led by Gov. Emmanuel Piñol have been campaigning about rubber-growing, not only in the province but other areas as well.

Natural rubber, Piñol says, is one major crop that has bright prospects to uplift the living condition of the country's impoverished sector.

A kilo of latex (rubber sap) fetches about P36 and "possibly would rise due to its high demand in the world market."

Piñol said the bright hope from rubber planting should even entice communist and Moro rebels to drop their weapons and go into farming.

"Instead of engaging government troops in a firefight, the New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and their allied forces may participate in the rubber production business," he says.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, says Piñol's invitation was good and that the idea would be raised and discussed in his meeting with the rebel hierarchy.

Hoping that a government-MILF peace agreement could be signed this year, Kabalu says the rubber business proposition may be carried out by the front in the so-called Moro ancestral domain.

The NPA leadership has yet to comment on the provincial government's invitation.

Agriculture Sec. Domingo Panganiban initially released P5 million in funds for rubber and named North Cotabato as the lead province of the project that involved cultivation of planting materials.

North Cotabato Vice Gov. Jesus Sacdalan has also called on other sectors of the society to take advantage of the booming rubber industry.

Sacdalan says the program accepts housewives, widows and children whether in or out of school.

"Every seedling that they produce will earn them P4," he says.

Farmers, including rebels who want to plant rubber, may get the seedlings free under the five-year "plant now pay later plan" of the provincial government according to Sacdalan.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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OLPINDO VINCENT CABREZA

BAGUIO CITY—ROMMEL OLPINDO is an Ibaloi waiter who profusely thanks the Almighty "for inventing *wagwag* first before He created the Value Added Tax."

This 25-year-old computer programming student says he managed to buy his two-year-old son Bryce a P5 knitted hat from a pile of imported secondhand clothes that sell for a bargain here, when government imposed an additional 2-percent tax to the 10-percent expanded VAT on Feb. 1.

"Wagwag," the Baguio street reference for this largely legitimized, if still underground, trade, helped local families economize before, but escalating commodity prices that are developing out of two successive VAT increases already makes shopping for new clothes a vice for low to middle-income earners, he says.

Olpindo still believes VAT has no hold on his lifestyle, as he waits tables for an old Chinese Filipino restaurant at the heart of the summer capital.

He traces his roots to Barangay Dalupirip, a village in the mining town of Itogon, which fought the construction of a large dam a few years ago.

Like most young workers, Olpindo occupies a room inside his parents' house, which allows him to live comfortably enough with a monthly take home pay of P5,000 each month, and maybe P606 in tips.

But most of his earnings pay for his small household's food, and two large cans of milk supplement for Bryce.

The rest pays for his transportation and monthly installments for a 21-inch television set.

Olpindo says VAT has made small dents in his spending cycle, which may seem negligible at first glance.

The restaurant requires Olpindo to break his daily shifts between opening at 8 a.m. and working to 1:30 p.m. and resuming work at 6 p.m. to close the diner at 10 p.m.

"This means four jeepney rides [worth P32 each day] for me to and from [San Carlos Heights], which is too far to walk [because it is a 20 minute ride from downtown Baguio on hours when traffic has picked up speed]," Olpindo says. "The first VAT raised my jeepney fare from P7.00 to P8.00. Whenever the restaurant asks us to work overtime, I usually decide to sleep there and wait for the morning so I can save on cab fare," he says.

The savings helped Olpindo accept the P1 increase to his favored rice variety, which are shipped from Pangasinan and Cagayan. Olpindo says 5 kilos of sinandomeng used to cost him only P100. It now costs him P105.

"Market food is not much of a problem because prices of vegetables [shipped from nearby La Trinidad town in Benguet] did not change when the first VAT was imposed, although the quality has gone down considerably," he says.

San Carlos Heights is one of the few villages in the city, which is not serviced by the Baguio Water District, so Olpindo spends P275 every other week on water deliveries to fill up 13 water containers at home. VAT compelled the water delivery service to hike up the rate by P1, he says.

Summed up, however, these small increases in food prices will hurt, Olpindo says.

Liquid petroleum gasoline now costs him P590 a tank, and "the new increase will definitely pull that price up some more," he says.

"VAT worries me not because of what it does to my expenses, but because of what it does to my friends. Many of my classmates graduated but have not yet found jobs like I have. [President Macapagal-Arroyo] is ready to make the ultimate sacrifice with VAT to salvage the economy because she does not see how people like us are affected," he says.

That gripe aside, Olpindo says Bryce remains invulnerable to VAT.

The child is "the first grandson" of his family, so Bryce thrives on gifts to keep his wardrobe and playpen always freshly stocked, he explains. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Rubber industry bounces back

RUBBER and budwood nursery garden in North Cotabato

From page B1

Institute of Technology (MIT) in Kabacan offered short courses on rubber beginning in 1958. Loan financing, then offered by the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine National Bank, largely fueled the growth of small farms.

Today, the provinces of Cotabato, Zamboanga Sibugay and Basilan are the country's major rubber producers.

Policy issues

Despite its longevity, the industry's potentials for bringing about national economic development have not been fully taken advantage of according to Dr. Eugenio Alcala, PRBI executive director.

Alcala, vice president for research of the University of Southern Mindanao (the former MIT), explained that the problem lies with low investments for rubber research and development (R&D).

He says the government, the largest source of funds for such purpose, spends the bulk of its agricultural budget for rice and corn.

This is premised on the country's dogged effort in achieving food security.

"There were even times when there was no research budget for rubber," Alcala laments, adding that there is a need to reevaluate the nation's agricultural policy and appreciate the fact that if people have purchasing power through cultivating other highly marketable crops, they can be assured of constant supply of food on their table.

"R&D underpins the growth of any industry," he says.

For those who pursued rubber cultivation despite the sad fact, replacing old trees and expanding the plantations were snagged by the absence of financing schemes after traditional sources suspended their loan window for the industry according to PRBI.

This has discouraged many planters over the years who shifted to other crops.

Today, the country has only about 100,000 hectares of rubber lands, 95 percent of which are considered small-scale plantations.

Of these, only 80 percent are productive, with 15 percent containing still immature trees. Ninety eight percent of the rubber farmers produce cuplumps, the rawest form of natural rubber.

On the other hand, neighboring Asian countries are making headway in industry development.

Malaysia currently has 1.2 million ha and Indonesia 3.5 million ha. Vietnam, which is a bit late in rubber cultivation, now has 500,000 ha, from 300,000 ha just a few years back.

While acknowledging the lost opportunity, Alcala, however, continues to be optimistic the country can still catch up given a policy environment conducive to industry growth.

Prospects

In a paper presented before a rubber conference in Davao City in November last year, Dr. Hidde Smit, secretary-general of the London-based International Rubber Study Group, said demand for natural rubber is expected to rise in the next 15 years.

Smit added that this trend will drive a projected rise in rubber price by over 50 percent in the next few years.

Alcala says global demand was being stimulated by growth of the automobile industry of China, which currently corners 30 percent of the 8.9 million metric tons of world production of dry rubber.

This bright prospect has already been felt by rubber farmers with a kilo of cuplump now priced at P36.

An eight-year-old tree, according to Alcala, can generate half a kilo of cuplump per month, and productivity goes up as the tree matures. A hectare of rubber farm can contain 500 trees.

Jack Sandique, who manages a family rubber estate in Makilala, Cotabato, says a 1.2-ha farm containing 600 mature trees yields 30 kilos cup lump a day.

At the current price, that would be more than enough for a family of five. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A HECTARE of land can contain 500 rubber trees.

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Gov't continues rice program despite failures

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THEY SAY MOST SUCCESSES ARE BUILT ON multitudes of failure. This is why Malacañang is pushing through with its multimillion-peso hybrid rice program even though the miracle crop bankrolled by the ill-gotten Marcos wealth has repeatedly failed to live up to its hype of making the Philippines self-sufficient in rice.

"If we do that (discontinue the hybrid rice program), there will be no rice to eat as far as the agriculture sector is concerned," said Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban, in a briefing in Malacañang.

Panganiban said the government was sticking to its strategy of buying hybrid rice varieties from private suppliers (led by SL Agritech of Sterling Paper owner Henry Lim Bon Liong) and marketing them to farmers at a discount even though this has not yielded the desired results since 2001 when the President launched with much fanfare the hybrid rice commercial program.

"Hybrid is the only way we can have a harvest of 5.5 tons because inbred palay can only yield 3 tons. We just to have improve on our quality," Panganiban said.

Experts and advocacy groups have long pointed out the failure of the hybrid rice program to meet its goal of boosting rice harvest and making the Philippines close to 100-percent sufficient in rice by 2004. (Panganiban said it was former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo and not Ms Arroyo who projected the country's self-sufficiency last year when we imported 1.8 million metric tons.)

The Rice Watch and Action Network (R1) said that "the hybrid rice varieties have not shown significant and consistent yield advantage over inbred rice varieties across the country."

Based on the experience of its users, hybrid rice generated minimal gains over inbred rice in harvest while farmers spent more for labor, fertilizer and pesticides for the miracle seed.

Only Nueva Ecija showed a modest return on investment among the areas that used hybrid rice and experts attributed this to its proximity to farm conditions in sub-tropical countries like Vietnam and India where hybrid has been thriving.

Dr. Cristina David of the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) made a study showing a high dropout rate or the number of farmers that abandon the hybrid after one season at 68 percent to 78 percent per province.

Panganiban claimed that the hybrid rice program had only P454 million a year budget but the Southeast Asian Regional Institute for Community Empowerment placed the budget at P1.6 billion for this year and P2.5 billion next year.

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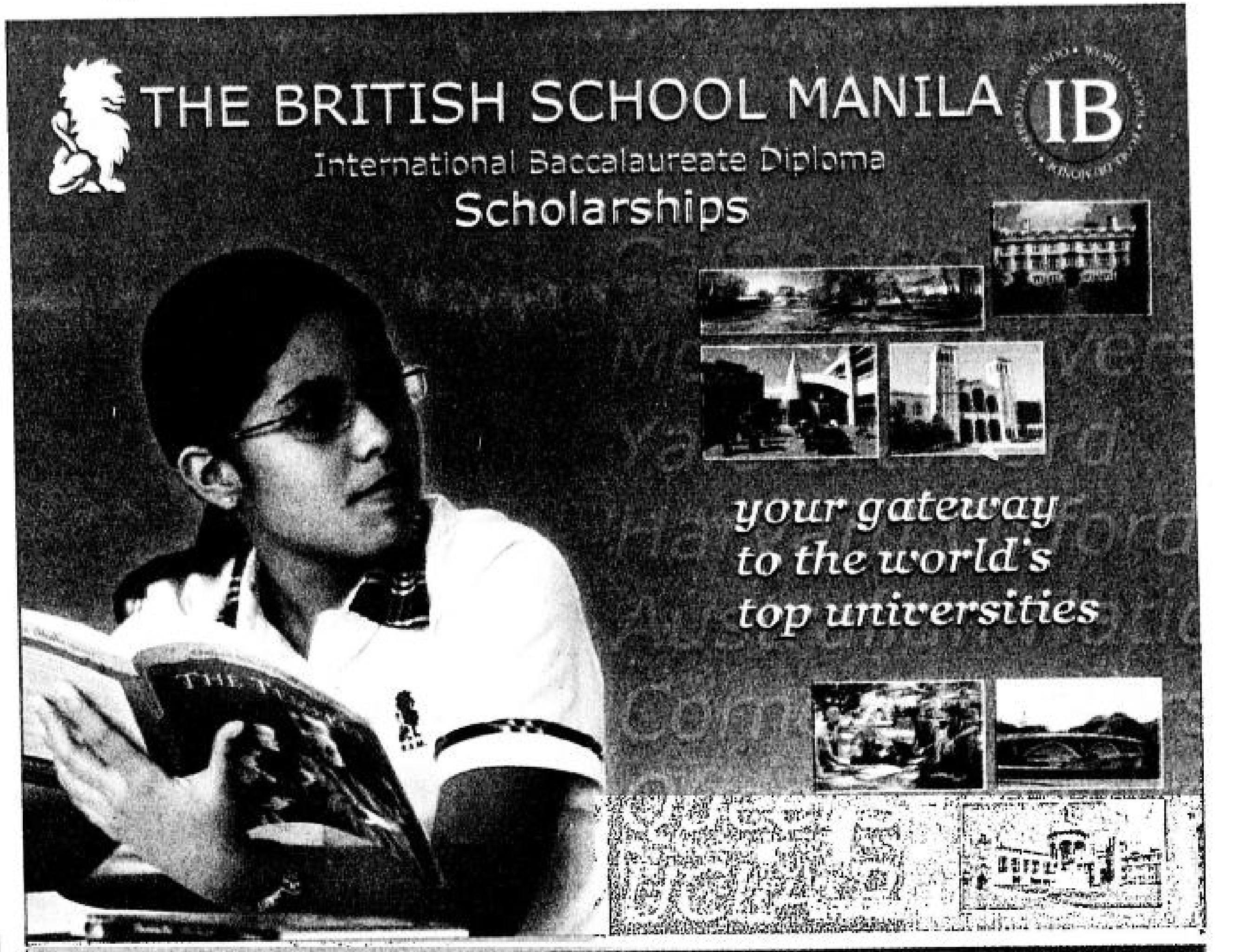
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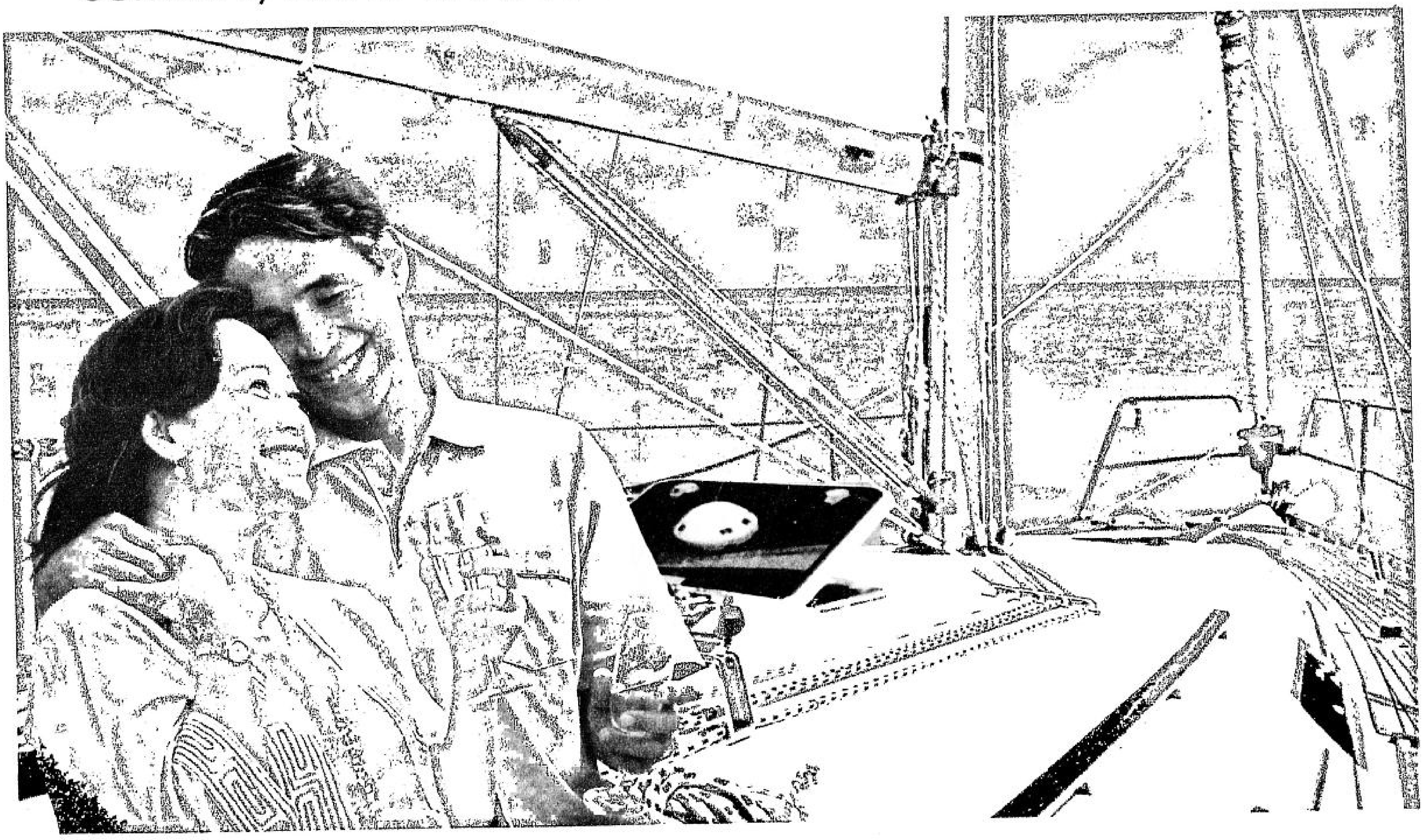

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33. Lot / L 5 B 5 / LA 363	1,389,000
34. Lot / L 8 B 5 / LA 369	1,412,000
35. Lot / L 10 B 5 / LA 445	1,703,000
36. Lot / L 14 B 5 / LA 440	1,683,000
37. Lot / L 16 B 5 / LA 308	1,179,000
38. Lot / L 6 B 6 / LA 314	1,201,000
39. Lot / L 7 B 6 / LA 350	1,339,000
40. Lot / L 10 B 6 / LA 305	1,167,000
41. Lot / L 11 B 6 / LA 318	1,217,000
42. Lot / L 20 B 6 / LA 304	1,163,000
43. Lot / L 26 B 6 / LA 357	1,366,000
44. Lot / L 30 B 6 / LA 353	1,351,000
45. Lot / L 3 B 7 / LA 386	1,477,000
46. Lot / L 4 B 7 / LA 404	1,546,000
47. Lot / L 5 B 7 / LA 375	1,435,000
48. Lot / L 6 B 7 / LA 393	1,504,000
49. Lot / L 7 B 7 / LA 360	1,377,000
50. Lot / L 8 B 7 / LA 383	1,465,000
51. Lot / L 9 B 7 / LA 370	1,416,000
52. Lot / L 10 B 7 / LA 402	1,538,000
53. Lot / L 12 B 7 / LA 376	1,439,000
54. Corner Lot/L 19 B 7 /LA 383	1,563,000

RESIDENTIAL / AGRICULTURAL

CEBU	MIN BID
Banilad – Ma. Luisa Estate Park Subd.	
55. Lot / Lots 20 & 6-D Paseo Annette / TLA 1,158	5,211,000
Busay – (near Jardin De Busay)	
56. Lot / L 2 C 2 / LA 393	302,000
57. Lot / L 2 C 3 / LA 393	333,000
GENERAL SANTOS CITY	**MIN BID**
58. Lot-1347-B-4, Cabe Subd. LA-10,038 *(w/ Lis Pendens & occupants)*	9,544,000
DAVAO CITY – Poblacion	**MIN BID**
59. Lot/L-41 Blk-11, Ladislawa Ave, Ladislawa Garden Vill / TLA 539	2,700,000
60. H&L/Lot 12 ,14 & 16,Blk 9 Dahlia Loop, Ladislawa Garden Vill, Pob. *(w/ occupant)* TLA 1,424 / FA 480	8,000,000
Ma-a, Talomo (Interior)	
61. Agri/ Lot-410-E-1/LA 12,000	5,520,000
62. Agri/ Lot-410-E-2/LA 12,000	5,520,000
63. Agri/ Lot-410-E-3/LA 12,059	5,550,000
64. Agri/ Lot-410-E-4/LA 12,000	5,520,000
PAGADIAN CITY - Lineza	**MIN BID**
65. Lot-194-B-2-1-8-C-9 (B) / LA 246	105,000
66. Lot-194-B-2-1-8-C-9 (A) / LA 312 *(with occupant)*	128,000
BUKIDNON	**MIN BID**
(Lingi-on, Manolo Fortich)	
67. Agri./ Lot 518 / LA 79,051	395,000
68. Agri. / Lot 519 / LA 58,479	292,000
69. Agri./Lot 520/Net LA 82,022	410,000
70. Agri. / Lot 528 / LA 86,159	431,000
71. Agri. / Lot 530 / LA 105,201	527,000

COMMERCIAL

CEBU CITY – Port Centre	MIN BID
72. *Lot 3,Cabahug St.LA 1,100	15,405,000
CEBU CITY – Basak Pardo	**MIN BID**
73. * Ind'l Lot w/ W'Houses Lots 4761 & 4768,Cebu South Rd TLA 3,109/TFA 2,499 (on lease)	21,600,000
74. *Ind'l.Lot w/ W'Hse/ Offc. Lots 4759, Cebu South Road LA 2,688/TFA 2,186 (On lease)	18,400,000
75. *Comml Lot w/ 6 sty Bldg L-7624-C -1-B & 7624 C-3,Colon Pahina Central Sambag / LA 660 70 TFA 2 797 (on lease)	76,005,000
MISAMIS ORIENTAL	**MIN BID**
76. *Ind'l Lot w/ bldgs,Old Natl Hi-way, Luz Banzon, Jasaan TLA 5 464/TFA 1,589(beside Pilipinas Kao)	9,257,000
DAVAO CITY (nr. Magsaysay Park)	**MIN BID**
77. * Lot / Lots 1-L-3-B-2, 1-L-3-D-2-C & 1-L-3-D-1-D, P. Bangoy / TLA 1,976	27,230,000
78. Lot / Lots 1-L-3-H-3-B-1 & 1-L-3-H-3-B-2, J Luna / TLA 544	4,004,000
79. Lot / Lot 1-L-3-H-3-B-3, Juan Luna / TLA 271 (w/ occupants)	2,000,000

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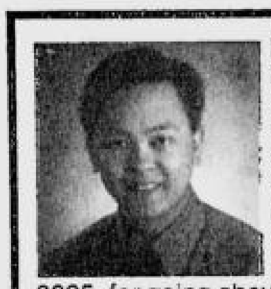

Dr. Jose Alberto B. Salazar, DABIM is one of 18 recipients of the "Rural Physician of Excellence Award" last November 9, 2005, for going above and beyond the call of duty to provide healthcare to rural residents throughout the state of Illinois, USA. Dr. Salazar graduated from FEU-NRMF in 1988 and finished his Internal Medicine residency training in Chicago, Illinois in 1995. He is the son of Consuelo Balcita Salazar and the late Isabelo Salazar of Bacnotan, La Union and Malate, Manila. He is married to Dr. Maria Cecilia Q. Nuguid of Quezon City.

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Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1334 for 173 shares;#1563 for 2,964 shares;#2080 for 627 shares;#2615 for 1,882 shares;#3267 for 1,129 shares;#3752 for 677 shares;#4225 for 4,545 shares & #5949 for 10,066 shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE ITF CHRISTINE DEE were reported lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1335 for 345 shares;#1564 for 2,964 shares;#3288 for 1,191 shares;#3753 for 714 shares & #4226 for 4,794 shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE ITF FREDERICK DEE were reportes lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1329 for 518 shares;#2073 for 103 shares;#2608 for 310 shares;#3282 for 186 shares;#3747 for 111 shares;#4220 for 749 shares & #4750 for 197 shares issued in the name of GILBERT DEE were reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificated will be issued.
(PDI- Feb 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert. No.5948 for Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Nine(14,309) shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

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ESTIMATOR

- Male or Female, at least 22-29 years of age
- Must be a B.S. Electrical Engineering graduate
- Preferably with at least 1 year experience in related field
- Must be knowledgeable in MS Excel, MS Word and MS project
- Must know how to operate Autocadd operations
- Willing to work under pressure.

Please bring your resumé to:

Power Dimension Inc., PDI Corporate Centre
#3 A. Luna St., Project. 4, Quezon City
or email it to
knievel.cuaresma@powerdimension.com

WANTED
FREELANCE
Architect/Designer
Graphic Artist

W/ 1 year exp. or newly grad
Not more than 35 years old

Send resumé on or before Feb. 18, 2006 to:
PODMC Bldg., Helios St., cor. C. Palanca Sts.,
Sta. Cruz, Manila • Tel. 7350266 / 7338316

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Apply at:
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GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd.
Alicia Salviejo (Aning)
Tel. # 551-48-40 / 1:00 - 6:00 PM

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **NAPOLEON DACO CO**, whose photo appears above, is no longer connected with **REPERTORY PHILIPPINES** as a marketing representative since January 27. 2006

Any transaction entered into by Mr. Co after the said date will not be honored.

(PDI – February 12, 2006)

A LEADING PLANTATION AND OIL MILL GROUP OF COMPANIES WITH OPERATION IN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO IS OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DESERVING CANDIDATES TO FILL THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

TWO (2) PLANTATION MANAGER-DESIGNATE

- B.S. Agriculture or Forestry Graduate
- Has good business sense and cost management skills
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Highly organized, creative and has a keen sense for details and accuracy
- Can relate people at different levels
- Has expertise in planning and control of operations
- Knowledgeable in labor laws & other relevant government regulations
- Experience in plantation management is an advantage
- A professional manager with the ability to motivate, persuade and lead people
- Age not more than 47 years old

TWO (2) SENIOR FIELD ASSISTANTS

- B.S. Agriculture or Forestry Graduate
- Self-driven, self-motivated and highly organized
- Detail-oriented with a keen sense for accuracy
- Analytical and knowledgeable in interpreting statistics
- Has good interpersonal and communication skills
- Aggressive, ambitious and has potential to assume Management position
- Age not more than 40 years old

TEN (10) FIELD SUPERVISORS

- B.S. Agriculture or Forestry Graduate
- A team player with the ability to motivate, persuade and lead people
- Self-driven, self-motivated and ambitious for higher position
- Results-oriented, dynamic and can perform effectively under extreme pressures
- Good in both oral and written communications
- Age not more than 30 years old

TWO (2) ACCOUNTANTS

- B.S. Accounting Graduate preferably CPAs
- Highly organized and has a keen sense for details and accuracy with ability to perform effectively under extreme pressures
- Proficient in financial analysis and structuring of financial packages
- Computer-literate and with knowledge in auditing procedures
- Has in-depth knowledge in purchasing and procurement procedures
- Age not more than 40 years old

TWO (2) MILL MANAGER-DESIGNATE

- Licensed Mechanical, Chemical or Electrical Engineer
- Preferably a holder of boiler operations license
- Minimum of five years working experience with managerial capacity preferably in power or industrial processing plant
- Possesses good business sense and cost management skills
- With knowledge in environmental regulations and DOLE's Occupational Safety and Health Standards
- Possesses good communication skills both in oral and written English
- Computer-literate, knowledge in Autocad is an advantage
- Trained in Problem-Solving & Decision-Making and Management By Objectives
- Knowledgeable in production and process control
- Possesses good character, leadership skills and a team player
- Age not more than 47 years old

TWO (2) MILL ENGINEERS

- Licensed Mechanical, Chemical or Electrical Engineer
- Preferably a holder of boiler operations license
- Minimum of three years working experience with supervisory capacity preferably in power or industrial processing plant
- Must have experience in operation and maintenance of steam boilers, steam turbines, material conveying equipment, fans and blowers, and other standard factory equipment
- Highly organized, self-driven and self-motivated
- Must be familiar with DOLE Occupational and Safety Health Standards
- Possesses good communication skills both in oral and written English
- Computer-literate, Knowledgeable in Autocad is an advantage
- Knowledgeable in production and process control
- Possesses good character, leadership skills and a team player
- Age not more than 37 years old

THREE (3) LABORATORY ANALYSTS

- Licensed Chemical Engineer or Chemist
- Minimum of two years hand-on working experience in a factory laboratory
- Must be familiar with laboratory standards and practices
- Must have experience in boiler water analysis, water treatment, and waste water and process effluent analysis
- Computer-literate
- Age not more than 35 years old

Application letter with resumé and 2x2 ID picture may be sent to:

API, Door 3, Granland Bldg.,
R. Castillo St., Agdao, Davao City or
E-mail to apidvo@ultimate.info.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

Asian Utility Vehicle

The Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation. BIARSP is regarded as an important programme for agrarian reform. It is highly regarded for its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building.

To further strengthen the programme's implementation, BIARSP supports its lead partner agency, the DAR, in upgrading its transportation complement by providing Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV) for DAR Region 7 & 9 and its DAR Provincial Offices.

The BIARSP-Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) therefore invites eligible companies to bid for 10 AUVs in two batches. The vehicles shall be delivered to the four (4) provinces of Region VII and the four (4) provinces of Region IX.

Interested parties are invited to visit www.biarsptsco.org (OPPORTUNITIES – Tenders) for the specifications as well as delivery destinations for the said equipment. Please submit proposed technical document with information such as company profile, BIR tax clearance and proposed budgetary requirements, through any of the following:

E-mail	tsco@biarsptsco.org
Post	BIARSP – TSCO, 2nd Floor Sol Y Mar Bldg., Cor. Rizal Blvd. – San Juan Street, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
Fax	(035) 422-7736

For further queries, please get in touch with Mary Marlyn C. Llosa, Administrative Officer, at telephone #s: (035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8681; and 422-7459.

Interested parties are advised to submit their documents not later than March 18, 2006.

(PDI–February 9 & 12, 2006)

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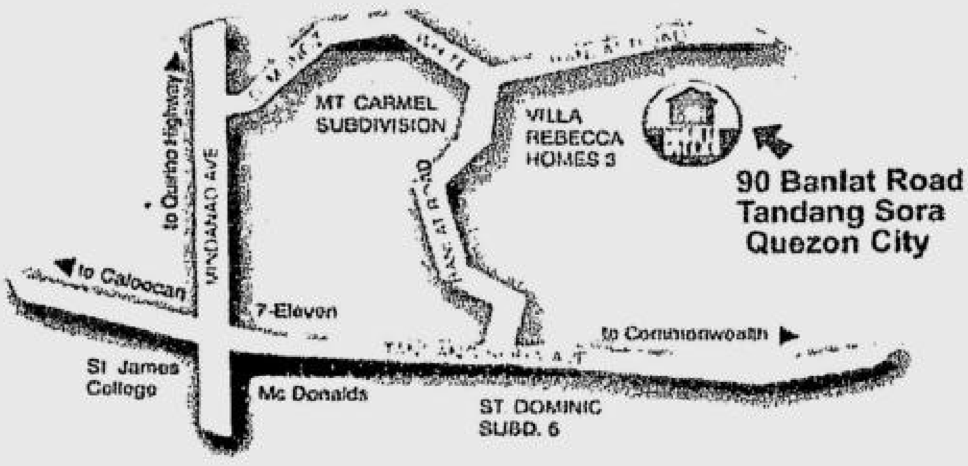

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SECURITY & SAFETY MANAGER

JOB SUMMARY:
Plans, leads, organizes and controls all activities related to security management within Legend International Resorts, Limited (LIRL) to ensure protection of life, properties and preservation of peace and order. Develops and maintains direct operational supervision and control of the Security and Safety Departments.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Minimum of B.S. in either Criminal Justice, Criminology or Police Administration;
- Must have attended Professional Law Enforcement/Security Courses for Executive Management;
- At least Ten (10) years work experience in all phases of Law Enforcement or Security;
- Strong Management Skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Knowledge in Physical Security;
- Can deal with all types/levels of people;
- Investigative Management Skills;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Knowledgeable on criminal laws that effect security;
- Willing to work long hours;
- Professional; Fair/Objective; Has moral courage; Honest and Trustworthy; Loyal and Dedicated.

ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER

JOB SUMMARY:
Supervises and directs all operational activities of the restaurant. Plans various projects which include material requirements, manpower and promotional activities in coordination with the administration.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate, preferably Hotel and Restaurant Management; any culinary-related course or equivalent experience;
- Good command of Chinese language (preferably Mandarin and Cantonese);
- At least five (5) years practical experience in a senior position handling profitable hotel F&B operations in a Chinese restaurant;
- Energetic, result-oriented and with strong leadership qualities;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Flexible, willing to work on long hours.

ASSISTANT VIP SERVICES MANAGER

JOB SUMMARY:
Provides necessary supervision and make sound decisions on most if not all aspects of VIP Services operations Supervises and coordinates activities of personnel to ensure prompt and courteous service to guests. Able to formulate solutions on problems encountered by the department by providing the necessary services to our valued guests.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate of any course;
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in Casino Industry;
- Minimum of two (2) years exposure in junket operations and negotiations;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Knowledge of any Asian language is an advantage;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Possesses leadership qualities;
- Excellent public relations skills;
- Prepared to work overtime when required;
- Good working knowledge of necessary computer softwares (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Front Page, etc.).

CASINO SLOT MANAGER

JOB SUMMARY:
Ensures the smooth operations of the slot machines and coordinates with gaming management staff and other departments concerned, its operations and promotions. In-charge of planning, promoting and improving performance of slot revenue; also responsible for public relations and the care of slot playing customers.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate of any course;
- Minimum of five (5) years experience in casino slots operations;
- Able to establish rapport and professional relations with casino players;
- Able to prepare and write clear and concise reports, when needed;
- Good public and employee relations;
- Strong leadership;
- Trustworthy, reliable person whose honesty and integrity is beyond doubt;
- Diplomatic, tactful, calm, confident and attentive when attending to customer complaints;
- Above average in oral and written communication skills;
- Firm and fair in decision making.

PR ASSOCIATE

JOB SUMMARY:
Does copywriting and production work for hotel promotions. Provides administrative support to ensure effective coordination with various departments within the organization relative to the events being undertaken, and with the events' technical partners, sponsors and target participants.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate of Mass Communication/Broadcasting/Journalism
- At least two (2) years experience in feature/creative writing, scriptwriting; PR presentation skills; Project/Events Management and Marketing; Radio/TV production; Advertising Copywriting;
- Flexible, willing to work extended hours.

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY:
Observes all activities of guests and employees for any irregularity on the Casino floor, cashier cages, slot operations, count rooms, slot operations, count rooms and support areas, via the CCTV system, and the compliance of Company policies and procedures.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Minimum of one (1) year experience as Surveillance Officer;
- College graduate (any four-year course);
- Overseas exposure is an advantage;
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Must have flexible working habit;
- Can work under pressure;
- Can keep confidential information.

JR. SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY:
Monitors gaming and support areas with the aid of CCTV. Prepares incident and other related reports as may be required by the Surveillance Officer/Executive.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Minimum of one (1) year Casino Gaming experience as Inspector or above;
- College level;
- Knowledgeable in conducting investigations and report writing is an advantage;
- Keen observer; strong analytical ability;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Computer literate;
- Can work under pressure;
- Patient and honest;
- Overseas exposure is an advantage.

Residents of Olongapo, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and/or other areas in Central Luzon are preferred. Interested applicants may send / submit their resumés / bio-data with supporting documents and recent 2x2 photo to:

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED
Recruitment & Training Office
2F Oak Bldg., Legenda Suites, Cubi Point,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City 2200
Fax No. (047) 252-8978, 2525032
EMAIL Address: hrd@legendanet.com

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- Graduate of Civil or Agricultural Engineering; with good academic records.
- Minimum of 5 years hands-on experience with land development works and horizontal construction. Experience with reputable construction companies would be a plus.
- Must be adept in road construction & maintenance, site grading works, water impound dams and maintenance of heavy equipment.
- Must be willing to be based in the farm (1 ½ hr from Cagayan De Oro). Willing to work on-site 6 days a week.
- A good working knowledge on basic surveying would be an added advantage.

***We will offer competitive salary (with staff house facility) to the Qualified Applicant.*

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR RESUME WITH PICTURE AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO:

THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER
(CODE: CIVIL/AGRI ENGINEERS)
80 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Or Email: tink.shelley@gmail.com

Previous applicants need not apply

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES

wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project: For One-Year Contract of Services for Engineering and Building Maintenance of Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Approved Budget for Contract is SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE PESOS AND 04/100 (P6,366,545.04).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting February 10, 2006 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on February 28, 2006; 3:00 pm, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.).

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before March 14, 2006; 3:00 pm. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on March 14, 2006, 3:00 pm. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 632-832-3667
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NIEVES T. DULDULAO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Feb 12 & 19 2006)

RAMCAR TECHNOLOGY INC.

URGENTLY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

ASSISTANT MOULDMAKERS
Male; Graduate of Technical/Vocational course
With 3-5 years experience in Moldmaking or Machine Shop

MACHINISTS
Male; Technical/Vocational course graduate
With at least 2 years experience in Machine Shop Operation

MECHANICAL/MACHINE ASSEMBLERS
Male; Technical Course Graduate
With minimum of 5 years experience as Machine Assembler

CNC MILLING OPERATORS
Male; Graduate of Technical Course
Must have basic knowledge in CNC Machine Operation

MECHANICAL/MACHINE DESIGNERS
Male; Graduate of Mechanical Engineering
With expertise in AUTOCAD or any equivalent software design
Experience in Machine or Mold Design for Plastic is an advantage

ELECTRICAL/INSTRUMENTATION TECHNICIAN
Male; Graduate of ECE or Electromechanics Technology
Knowledgeable in Hydraulics and Pneumatics
At least 5'5" in height and must have big body built

DRCC – QUALITY SYSTEMS CUSTODIAN
Female; Graduate of Library Science
Must be proficient in Computer

Note : *We have preference for 21-35 age group*
Applicants for all positions must be willing to be based in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED
TO APPLY PERSONALLY
WITH THEIR RESUMÉ AND 2X2 I.D. PICTURE TO:

CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION
(BATTERY GROUP)
RAMCAR CENTER
80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.
Tel. No. 4121779
or email to: bcsarmiento@motolite.com

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
http.www.bayawancity.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *City of Bayawan*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC-I), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

BID NO.	PR NO.	ITEMS	SOURCE OF FUNDS
06-001	JO 100-06-01-002A	To supply and deliver Diesel Fuel for the LGU Operations - CY 2006	General Fund

Bid documents shall be available at the BAC Office, Annex Building Sports Complex Building, LGU Bayawan City upon payment of prescribed non-refundable fee.

Bidders shall drop their technical and financial proposals in the bid box at the BAC-I Secretariat Office, Bayawan City on or before the deadline of submission of bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provision of RA. 9184

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government. The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows.

Activities	*Schedule*
Issuance of Bid Documents	February 6 to March 3, 2006
Pre-bid Conference	February 21, 2006, 10:00 A.M.
Eligibility Check	Not later than March 3, 2006
Deadline/Opening of Bids	March 7, 2006, 10:30 A.M.

Approved by
(Sgd.) PANCHO F. VILLASIS
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 5 & 12, 2006)

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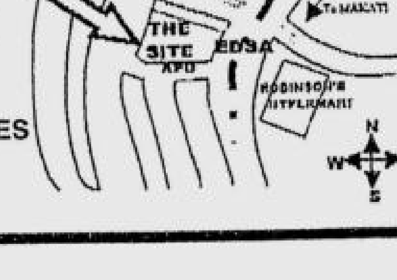

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NELSON NEPOMUCENO MANANKIL

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 10, 2006 at the age of 64.

His wife **Evangelina**; children **Joy** and **Chito**, **Noel**, **Grace** and **Joel**, and **Marian**; and granddaughter **Eliana** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Mary Memorial Chapels, Angeles City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 after the 2 p.m. Mass.

ATTY. ROGER AMORES ACOLOLA

of Roxas City, Capiz

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 11, 2006, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

His loving wife, **Doris**; children **Dodong & Jamie**, **Mimit**, **Gilly**, **Toti & Yvonne**, **Vangie & Eric**, and **Wally**; and grandchildren **Enzo**, **Gari**, **Thea**, and **Raffy** request all relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on February 14, 2006, Tuesday morning.

"and He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine
like the sun and hold you in the palm of His hand."

Justice Bienvenido C. Vera Cruz (Ret.)

husband of MIGUELITA CARMONA (†)

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 10, 2006 at the age of 74.

His children, **Goodie**, **Monching**, **Clara**, **Dandoy**, **Alot**, **Malet**, **Roland** and **Rina**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; siblings, **Ramoncito** (†), **Eva** (†), and **Ponciano**.

Relatives and friends request to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"For I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." – **John 14:6**

We, the family of the late

LEONARDO B. SALCEDO

who peacefully joined his Creator on January 29, 2006

Wish to thank all of you who, by of your presence, prayers, thoughts and flowers, offered us solace and comfort. We also thank you for joining us in remembering him who in so many ways, have touched our lives forever.

IRENE MAGSOMBOL MITERIA

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 11, 2006 at the age of 74.

Her husband **Marianito**; children **Myrna & Noel Lucero**, **Julie**, **Cynthia & Amado Lim**, **Abet & Lara**; and grandchildren **Rommel**, **Stacey**, **Reandro**, **Nichole**, **J-Ann**, **Cindy** and **Amanda** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat Road, Parañaque.

Cremation will be on February 12, 2006, 6 p.m. at the Crematorium of the Holy Trinity Chapel.

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother. No man is poor who has a godly mother." – Abraham Lincoln

---

Our Dearly Beloved

Dr. Pedro Poblete Mendonez Ph.D.

April 27, 1921 - December 6, 2005

Passed away peacefully at Maroondah Hospital, Melbourne, Australia at the age of 84.

Beloved and loving husband of **Belen** for 62 years; father of **Bernadette Russell** of Syracuse, New York; **Gemma Skeggs** of Yarraville, Australia; **Antonio** of Chicago, Illinois; **Corazon Keeley** of Perth, Australia; **Maria (Ruby) Mendonez** of Wantirna, Australia; and **Kelly Ibardolosa** of Perth, Australia; grandfather of 13 and great grandfather of two.

He was an educator who came to Melbourne from the Philippines in 1985. He held many positions in higher education in his native country, retiring as a vice president of the Rizal Technological University. He was the founding president of Pilipino Professionals of Victoria. He passionately worked to promote career opportunities in Victoria for Asian professionals.

May God bestow peace and happiness on Pedro, who will always affectionately remain in our hearts, minds and prayers.

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, February 18, 2006, 11:00 am at Parish of the Divine Mercy, Maano corner Madasalin Sts., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

ALFREDO ABAD ROSALES, SR.

of
Lumban, Laguna and NAPOCOR Village,

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 10, 2006 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Dr. Marcela Reyes**; children **Rev. Fr. Angelito, SDV**, **Alfredo Jr. & Glenda**, **Engr. Ambrocio & Otchie**, **Engr. Augustus** and **Alexander**; grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 in Lumban, Laguna.

Interment will be on February 16, 2006.

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Our Dearly Beloved
Nanay

HERMOGENA VALUANZA BEATO

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 9, 2006 at the age of 95.

Her children **Teresita Santos**, **Lourdes Ferrer** and **Remedios Bicomong**, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sacred Heart Chapel of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Dao St., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Cremation will be at Heritage Memorial Park Crematory on February 15, 2:00 p.m.

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- Master of Science in Health Informatics[2] (Bioinformatics/ Medical Informatics)
- Master of Clinical Audiology[1]
- Master of Clinical Medicine (Medical Oncology)
- Master of Orthopedics
- Diploma in Bioethics[3]
- Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology
- Diploma in Clinical Medicine (Child Health / Family Medicine / Obstetrics-Gynecology)
- Diploma in Physiology
- Diploma in Preventive Ophthalmology
- Certificate in Biochemistry

College of Nursing
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing
- Master of Arts in Nursing[4]

College of Pharmacy
- Master of Science in Pharmacy (Hospital Pharmacy/ Industrial Pharmacy/ Pharmaceutical Chemistry)

College of Public Health
- Doctor of Public Health
- Master of Science in Epidemiology
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- Master of Arts in Health Policy Studies (Health Sciences)
- Master of Hospital Administration[4]
- Master of Public Health[4]
- Master of Occupational Health
- Certificate in Hospital Administration

National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions
- Master of Health Professions Education
- Diploma in Health Professions Education
- Basic Course in Health Professions Education

[1] Joint program of the College of Allied Medical Professions and the College of Medicine
[2] Joint program of the College of Medicine and the College of Arts and Sciences
[3] Joint program of the College of Medicine and the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy of UP Diliman
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Mailing address: **National Graduate Office for the Health Sciences, University of the Philippines Manila, 3/F Joaquin Gonzales Hall, Padre Faura corner Ma. Orosa Street, Ermita, 1000 Manila.**

Application Period until APRIL 21, 2006

Cannes Lions 2006 open for registration

MEDIA, ADVERTISERS AND ADVERTISING practitioners interested to attend the 53rd Cannes International Advertising Festival can now register online at www.canneslions.com.

This year's online delegate registration provides information on registration, hotel reservations and other practical information.

New CEO appointed

Penny Reid, who has over 20 years work experience at Saatchi & Saatchi, TBWA\GGT and Tequila London, has been appointed CEO of the festival.

"This is in line with our announcement earlier in the year that we would strengthen our management team and ensure a succession plan was in place," said Terry Savage, Cannes executive chair.

"Penny has extensive experience at all levels of the business, and my team and I look forward to working with her to build on the success of last year's festival" he added.

2006 Jury presidents

The Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival has assembled some of the most talented, respected and awarded creative names in advertising to preside over the different juries.

The festival organizers announced that David Droga will preside over both the Film and Press Cannes Lions juries, while Guillaume Van Der Stighelen, copywriter and creative partner of Duval Guillaume, Belgium will chair the Radio Lions jury.

Steve Harrison, managing director and creative partner of Harrison Troughton Wunderman has been named the Lions Direct Jury president, while Renetta McCann, CEO of Starcom MediaVest Group (SMG) will chair the Media Lions jury. The International Festival also announced the appointment of Matias Palm-Jensen, creative president of Farfar, Sweden as the Cyber Lions jury president and Fernando Vega Olmos, president of VegaOlmosPonce, Argentina and Unilever Worldwide creative director (Lowe) as this year's Outdoor jury president.

Entries now open

Entrant companies are invited to submit their work in all categories—Film, Press, Outdoor, Lions Direct, Media Lions, Cyber Lions, Radio Lions, Titanium Lions and the new category, Promo Lions. Entry forms can be completed online at www.canneslions.com

Deadlines:

Press & Outdoor Entries: 10 March 2006

Film Entries: 10 March 2006

Radio Lions Entries: 17 March 2006

Lions Direct Entries: 17 March 2006

Promo Lions Entries: 17 March 2006

Media Lions Entries: 17 March 2006

Cyber Lions Entries: 24 March 2006

Titanium Entries: 24 March 2006

The 53rd International Advertising Festival will be held on June 18-24, 2006 in Cannes, France.

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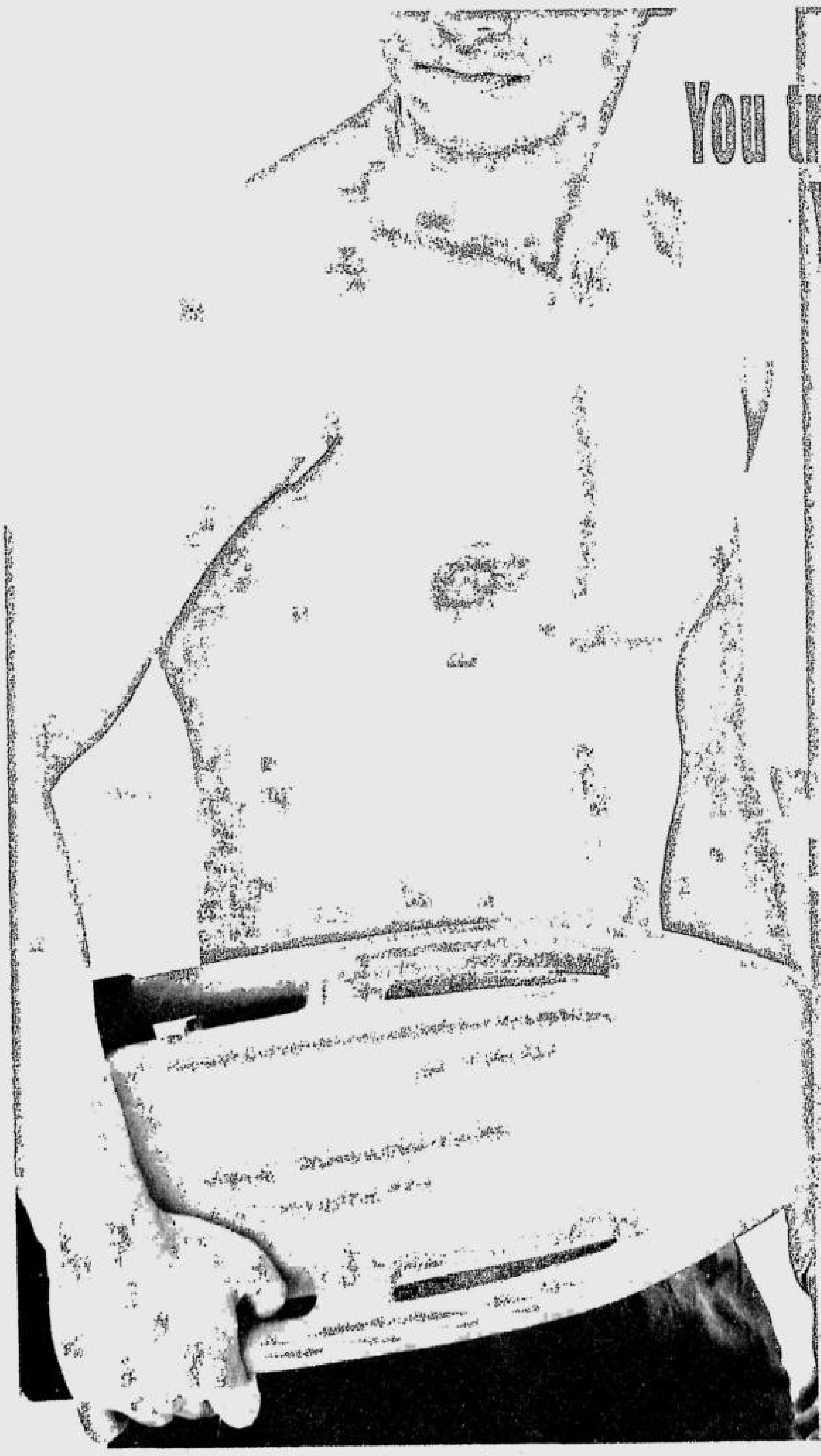

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

EDITOR'S Rave Board /E1

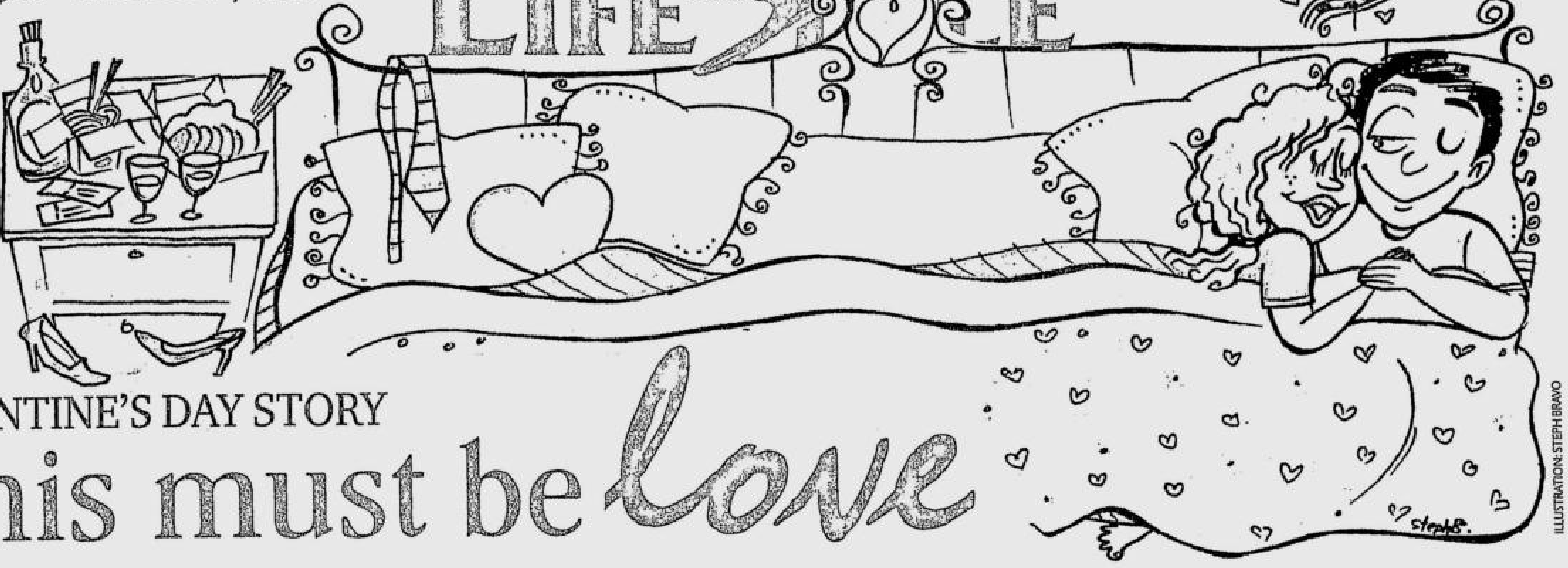

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

VALENTINE'S DAY STORY

This must be love

By Chit Roces
Contributor

ON VALENTINE'S DAY, CUPID made one of his periodic visits to Earth to see if traditions were still alive. One of Cupid's concerns was that many earthlings may have begun to dread Valentine's Day because it had gone the way of Christmas, completely commercialized, thus open to all manner of opportunism, its essence lost.

This time around, he dropped in on a particular couple, one he had been monitoring for years. Though not as bad as Scrooge, who humbugged Christmas, this couple, judging by the Valentine's days of the past quarter century, had managed to ignore it.

Sure enough, when he arrived at his subjects' cozy pad, Cupid found no red roses, no box of chocolates, no cards with red-heart cutouts, indeed nothing whatever to mark the occasion, all in perfect keeping with their own tradition of non-observance.

Never a Valentine's card from this writer? Well, he did give her a book of poems with the most romantic dedication once, but on the wrong day, not on Valentine's. Taken by the dedication himself, Cupid recited it from memory, and thought, apparently beginning to feel concessionary, did he really need to say anything more?

Ah, but there was enough evidence in the bedroom to suggest some observance the night before—although, again, on the wrong night. And, looking at his investigation notes, Cupid observed that love-making wasn't to them a conscious way either of marking special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries and the beginnings and ends of brief separations, so that whether it happened the night before Valentine's had nothing to do with it.

They treated themselves to a concert that evening, too, but then again, shows like that do come around Valentine's. Before going, they had called for an unromantic fast-food delivery at 5:30 p.m. to stock themselves for the long night. They had known about the concert rather late and what few tickets there had remained were for seats in the rafters.

Coming around

But as surely as it was no Valentine's date by his standards, Cupid did not miss one important detail: They got to the concert hall with plenty of time to spare. Much time and energy had been squandered on rows over her tardiness; punctuality was to him a definitely big deal.

It might have taken her years to come around, but she did, and last night's achievement was no mere momentary lapse of character. Not to be outdone, he had stopped smoking for more than five years now, with no prodding from her.

Those mutual turnarounds spelled L-O-V-E in a big way any day in Cupid's book.

But, for today, Cupid was looking for signs of Valentine's observance. He was beginning to feel petty, and was now willing to settle for anything. Anyway, the day had just begun, he consoled himself. Surely, one of them would remember.

Some mornings she woke up giggling, hardly able to wait to share a funny dream or joke with him. Sometimes there wasn't time to lose; she'd jump out of bed and race to the bathroom. Today, she roused singing softly, "*Te voglio bene sai…*" (just the line, not the entire aria), doubtless a carryover from last night's performance, at the same time resting a hand on his chest.

He caught her hand and held it, popping one eye open. He was a slow riser—even his eyes opened one at a time.

He was in the same position he slept in but occupied less space now. She had claimed far more than her share of the bed, and had managed to kick three of the seven pillows off it. It's Valentine's! Cupid caught himself trying to prompt them, but, of course, not managing to be heard.

Cupid was desperate now. He seemed to have found the perfect couple for Valentine's, but couldn't seem to get them to observe it. Suddenly, he remembered, and how could he have missed it! "*Te voglio bene sai*" was "I love you" in his own native Italian, and sung yet. That decidedly had more weight than all the red roses and heart-adorned cards in the world of Valentine!

As he prepared to leave, finally gratified, Cupid heard her purr, "Happy Valentine's," and watched him respond with a smile and a tender tap on her hand still resting on his chest.

LOVE ME
VALENTINE'S DAY
TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

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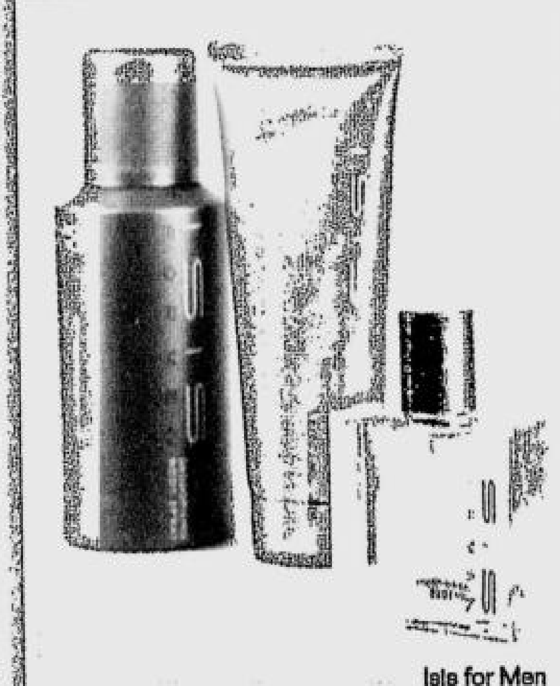
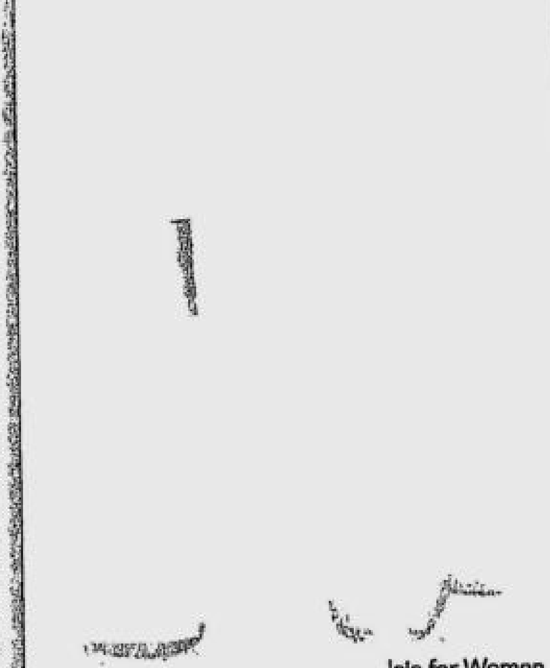
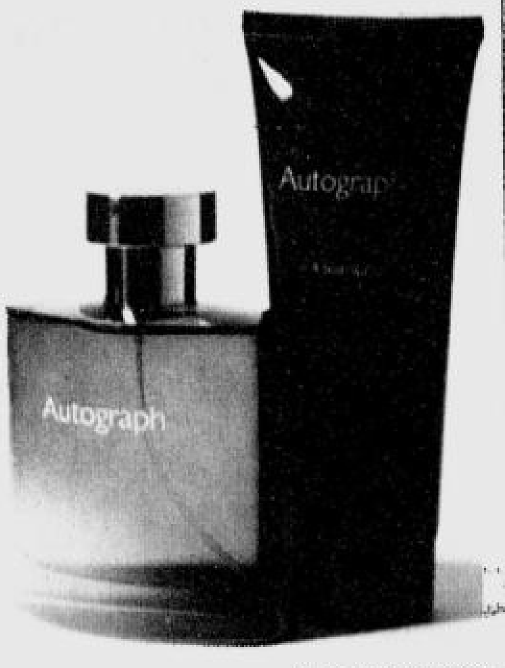


Isis for Men
Eau de Toilette, Deodorizing Body Spray and Shower Gel with Hair Conditioner



Isis for Women
Eau de Toilette, Body Lotion, Bath & Shower Gel and Body Spray



Autograph for Men
Eau de Toilette and Hair & Body Wash

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BAKED Mussels Wrapped in Bacon

JOANNE Limoanco, Dusit Hotel Nikko's executive sous chef

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Ryan Lim

THE PERFECT V-DAY REQUIRES creativity, planning and the right choice of food.

For young couples who are always on-the-go, executive sous chef Joanne Limoanco of Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel has prepared a fool-proof salad and baked mussels to kick off any romantic dinner.

These wonderful dishes seem like they can only be pulled off by chefs, but they are quite simple to do at home.

"Smoked salmon is a well-appreciated delicacy by a lot of people," says Limoanco (tel. 8673333). "It's flavorful on its own and when you put it in a salad, the sweetness and tartness of the dressing and crunchiness of the greens and bread chips complement the saltiness of the smoked salmon."

The other dish is a take on the popular baked mussels, "a fun dish that couples can work on together."

A good bottle of Chardonnay or even champagne will definitely complement both dishes, not to mention enhance the romance.

Smoked Salmon Salad

200-250 g romaine lettuce or other mixed greens (washed and spun dry)
150 g smoked salmon fillets
20 g capers

SMOKED Salmon Salad

1 c croutons or bread chips (thin slices of bread slightly heated in the oven)

Dressing:
½ c mayonnaise
2 tbsp dijon mustard
2 tbsp honey
1 tsp garlic
1 tsp dill leaves
juice of 1 lemon
2 tsp parmesan cheese

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Puree until dressing is smooth. Adjust seasoning. Transfer dressing into a squirt bottle and chill until ready to use. Arrange smoked salmon fillets flat, on the center of the plate. Arrange the mixed greens on top. Sprinkle with capers and croutons. Drizzle dressing around the plate.

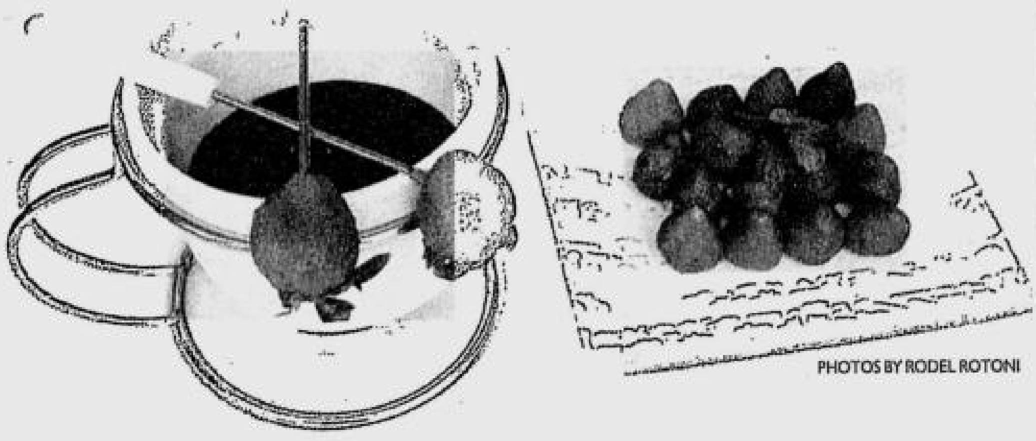
Baked Mussels Wrapped in Bacon

500 g mussels (New Zealand mussels), shucked
100 g honey-cured bacon strips or prosciutto
1 c grated mozzarella or quick-melt cheese
½ c parmesan cheese
½ c bread crumbs

Sauce:
¼ c unsalted butter
2 tbsp garlic, minced
¼ c flour
2 c milk
1 c spinach leaves, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 350ºF. (If using a toaster oven, you can preheat it after you have seared the mussels). To make the sauce: Heat butter in a hot pan. Sweat garlic. Whisk in flour. Gradually add the milk while whisking. Add the chopped spinach leaves. Season sauce with salt and pepper. Set the sauce aside until ready to use.

Gently remove the mussels from the shell and wrap each with half a strip of bacon. Heat a nonstick pan and sear each bacon-wrapped mussel. Return the meat onto the shell. Spoon the sauce over the mussels. Sprinkle with cheese and bread crumbs. Bake the mussels in the oven for 10-15 minutes or until the cheese melts.


STRAWBERRY and Chocolate Fondue

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

CHEF Florabel Co

Feast for the senses

LET'S GET REAL: VALENTINE'S Day is a day of hideous traffic!

Translation: a perfect time to rather stay at home and make something fun and even sensuous feasts for your date.

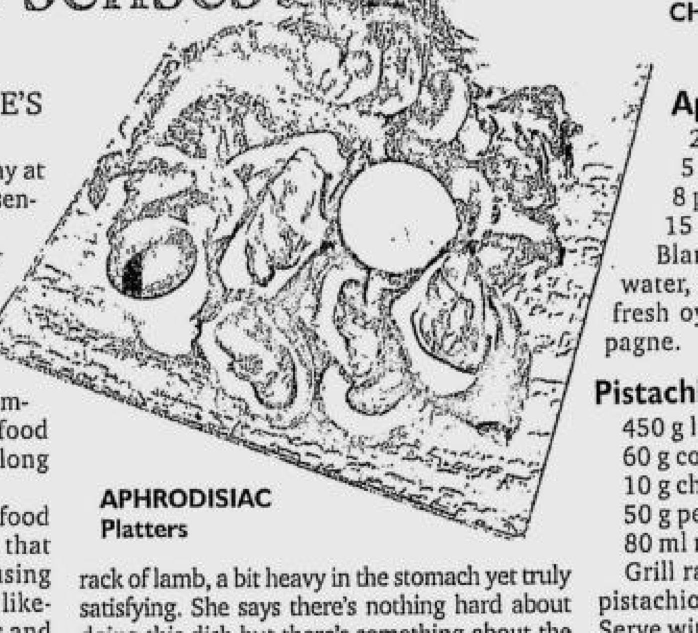
Now, if you're trying to impress your date, wouldn't it be nice to serve an "aphrodisiac" platter accompanied by a glass of champagne with caviar on the side while you sit together around a candle-lit table? The champagne will definitely complement the food and inspire you to linger at the table long after you're done eating.

Chef Florabel Co has created a seafood platter of oysters, lobster and prawns that will surely spice up the evening. A rousing strawberry and chocolate fondue will likewise bolster the feeling of togetherness and pleasure.

"Valentine's Day is one such occasion that couples celebrate by doing something together, like eating," says Co (tel. 6387527).

For Co, a quintessential V-Day dish can also be rack of lamb, a bit heavy in the stomach yet truly satisfying. She says there's nothing hard about doing this dish but there's something about the juicy pistachio-crusted red meat that looks as if you've pulled all the stops.

If your date insists on something light and easy for dinner, baked fish will definitely do the trick.


APHRODISIAC Platters

Aphrodisiac Platters

250 g lobster
5 pcs prawns
8 pcs fresh oyster in shell
15 g lump fish caviar

Blanch lobster and prawns in salted water, shocked in ice water. Serve with fresh oyster, caviar and a glass of champagne.

Pistachio-Crusted Rack of Lamb

450 g lamb
60 g couscous
10 g chopped pistachio nuts
50 g peeled tomato
80 ml rosemary jus

Grill rack of lamb and coat with chopped pistachios and bake to desired doneness. Serve with couscous and grilled vegetable.

Lapu-lapu with Smoked Salmon and Mushroom

150 g *lapu-lapu* fillet
80 g smoked salmon
100 g roasted potato
40 g arugula
80 ml sun-dried tomato vinaigrette
40 g grilled button mushroom

Season *lapu-lapu* fillet and wrap with smoked salmon. Bake for 15 minutes at 350ºF.

Serve with roasted potatoes and arugula and mushroom topped with sun-dried tomato vinaigrette.

Strawberry and Chocolate Fondue

300 g dark bitter chocolate
12 pcs fresh strawberries

Melt chocolate in double boiler. Add 1 tbsp of corn or canola oil and serve.

Vangie Baga-Reyes

LAPU-LAPU with Smoked Salmon and Mushroom

PISTACHIO-CRUSTED Rack of Lamb

CHICKEN Ham and Melon Cocktails

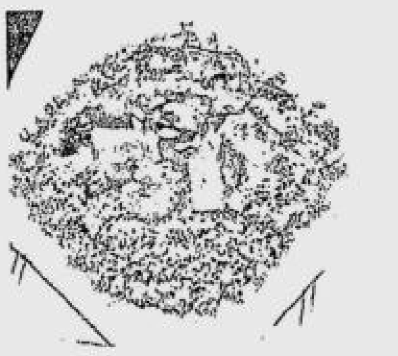
Hale and hearty dishes on Day of Hearts

GETTING THE MOST out of V-Day means finding ways to make it extra-memorable. So why not prepare a romantic feast that will not only enrich your relationship with your romantic partner, but also benefit your health?

Noted food stylist and young chef Eugene Raymundo suggests that married couples prepare a healthy and balanced set of meals because good, nutritious food means not only healthy living but also longer life for each other. V-Day can also be a time for married couples to significantly change their eating habits and choices, Raymundo adds.

Of course, feel-good, healthy meals don't mean deprivation. "It's all about cooking flavor-packed food to satisfy your senses," notes Raymundo (tel. 8111827).

Raymundo shares a few simple, adaptable recipes that couples can cook together as well as dishes that look great on the table. They're easy and quick to prepare. You can do the chicken ham and prawns dishes while the main course is being grilled.


NEO-MOROCCAN Prawn and Kani Couscous

FOOD stylist and chef Eugene Raymundo

Neo-Moroccan Prawn and Kani Couscous

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
3 tbsp sliced garlic
3 tbsp chopped onions
½ c chopped tomatoes
1 tsp dried basil leaves
150 g prawns, shelled
4 sticks *kani*, quartered, or ½ c frozen crabmeat
1 ¼ c seafood stock
½ tsp salt
1 c couscous
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Sauté garlic, onions, tomatoes and basil in oil. Add prawns and *kani* and cook just until prawns turn pink. Remove from pan and pour in stock. Bring to a boil and season with salt and pepper. Turn off fire and add in couscous and sautéed seafood. Cover and let sit for at least a minute, then fluff with a fork. Serve immediately. Top with toasted pine nuts if desired.

Chicken Ham and Melon Cocktails

100 g chicken ham, cut into 1" strips
¼ pc melon, cut into chunks
Salt and pepper

Season melon chunks with salt and pepper. Wrap each melon with a strip of ham and secure with cocktail picks. Serve chilled.

Zesty Grilled Chicken Steak

250 g chicken breast fillet, skin removed
3 tbsp bottled barbecue marinade
¼ c diet lime soda or any clear soft drink
5 sprigs fresh rosemary or 1 tsp dried rosemary leaves
1 tbsp lemon juice
1 ½ tsp Worcestershire sauce
2 tbsp honey or brown sugar
¾ tsp salt
Pinch of pepper

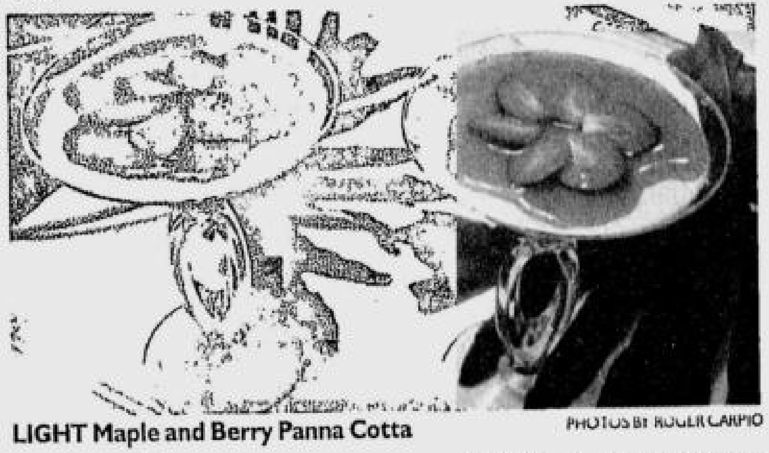
Place all ingredients in a Glad freezer bag. Lock the bag and "pound" chicken pieces for a few seconds to blend all ingredients well. Chill for at least three hours before cooking, or freeze for up to two weeks.

Heat a nonstick pan or grill pan. Drizzle a bit of olive oil or any vegetable oil. Cook chicken on high heat, approximately 2 minutes on each side. Serve with a slice of lemon.

Light Maple and Berry Panna Cotta

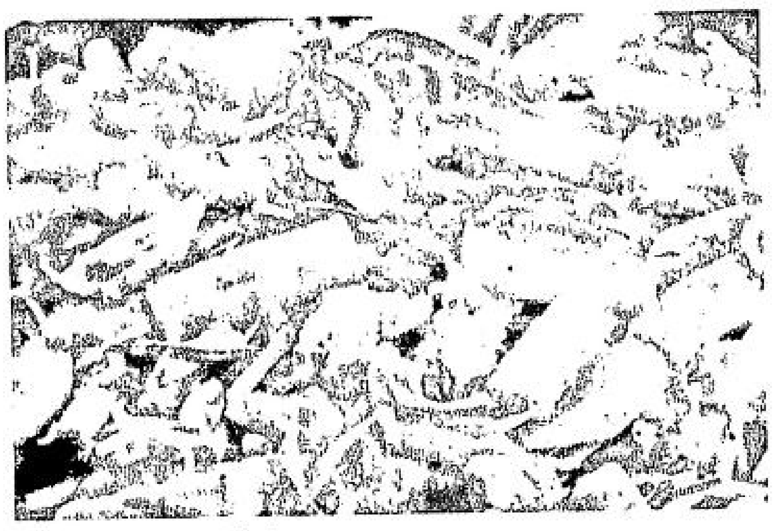
1 ¾ c low-fat milk
2 packs Splenda or 3 tbsp sugar
1 tsp unflavored gelatin
1/3 c chopped strawberries
1/8 tsp vanilla extract (optional)
Fresh strawberries
Maple syrup

Place milk, gelatin and sweetener in a pan. Cook over low heat until gelari is completely dissolved. Add chopped strawberries. Pour into desired molds and let cool before chilling overnight. To serve, top with sliced strawberries and maple syrup. *Vangie Baga-Reyes*

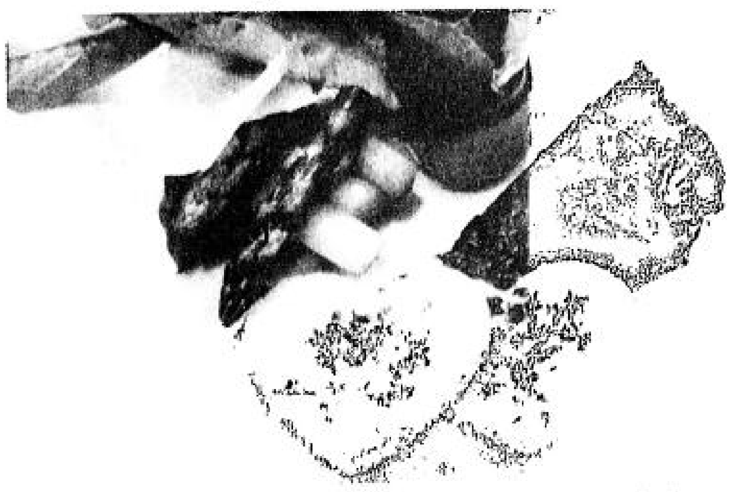

LIGHT Maple and Berry Panna Cotta

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

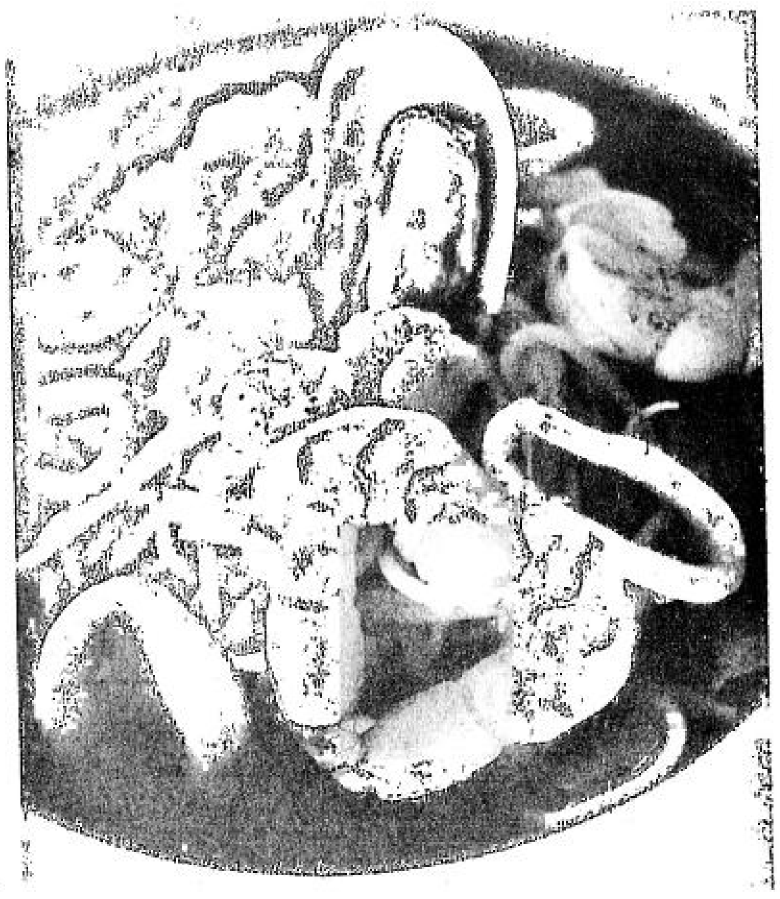
ZESTY Grilled Chicken Steak



QUILAIN Tuna at Cabalen



PORTOBELLO Mushroom and Asparagus Symphony. Grilled Portobello mushroom and roasted fresh asparagus spears with parmesan shavings and herbed croutons in a honey-lime dressing



UCC's Seafood Soup Spaghetti

Plateful of mush and more

CABALEN offers Regional Buffet, a wide array of food selection featuring the best dishes across the country. Taste the flavors of Palawan's Pusit Pulutan and Alimasag at Langka sa Gata, Binartek Nga Manok of Ilocos, Laguna's Hipon sa Latik, Ensaladang Suha of Davao, among others. For Valentine's Day, Cabalen presents special dishes, Feb. 13-15. Dishes include Quilain Tuna, Bulalo with Mais, Balot a la Pobre, Sisig, Inihaw Panga ng Tuna, Baked Tahong and Buco Pandan Shake for a heartwarming treat. Cabalen branches are at 67 West Ave., QC; 2/L, SM City North Edsa, QC; 4/L, Bldg B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong; 2/L, Robinsons Place Ermita, Manila; Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati; G/L, Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando Pampanga; Brickroad Area, Sta Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal; and Village Square Harrison Plaza, Manila. Call 9111584. For catering services, call 4219220 or 9135522.

GATEWAY MALL'S MANDARIN CAFÉ & DELI has something big to offer sweethearts and certified sweet tooths this season of love. Just bring your loved ones to Mandarin Café & Deli, and have the Special Valentine Treat menu with a non-alcoholic drink or a glass of sparkling wine. For tempting desserts, try out Mandarin Café's new Valentine's Day concoction, the Flourless Chocolate Cake with minted mangoes. Until Feb. 14, Mandarin Café & Deli has a Valentine set of chocolates and flowers for loyal diners. Besides these special treats, Mandarin Café & Deli offers its popular a la carte menu for a memorable dining out this Valentine's. Mandarin Café and Deli is at UG/F, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center's high-end fashion and dining destination.

SUPERBOWL OF CHINA offers super sweet desserts of your choice for free. For a minimum purchase of P500, get any of the following: Classic Choco Sundae, Decadent Sundae or the Classic Strawberry Sundae. The promo is until Feb. 19, for dine-in only.

MUSEUM CAFÉ offers a Valentine dinner, Sensual Wisdom, on Feb. 14, for P975++ per person. The menu consists of a choice of Herb and Beetroot Cured Pacific Salmon, Endive and Red Ruby Salad or Seared Foie Gras and Scallop. Entrées include Seared French Duck Breast, Seabass, or Beef Tenderloin with Sarawak Pineapple Tarte Tatin. Plus, Chocolate Platter and a complimentary bottle of Fortant de France and a bottle of Baileys Irish Cream for every group of five. Globe Platinum members get complimentary champagne and enjoy 50-percent discount. M is at G/F, Ayala Museum's Glass Wing. Call 7573000 or 7576000.

AZZURRO BISTRO & BAR offers Valentine's Day Set Menu, available for P1,250++ per person. It's a Mediterranean Valentine on Feb. 14 at the newly opened Azzurro Bistro & Bar at the Linden Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig; and Azzurro Bistro & Lounge at Somerset Millennium, Legaspi Village, Makati. Cheese Walnut and Tuna and Apple Crostinis are offered for starters, followed by Cream of Wild Mushrooms Cappuccino soup served with Grissini Stick, and the refreshing Crispy Prawns Salad with Green Mango and Citrus Dressing. The main entrée features these choices: Medallions of Beef with Italian Barolo Red Wine sauce served with Creamed French Gratin Dauphinoise; Chicken Saltimbucca, a tempting fillet of chicken wrapped in parma ham and parmesan; or Pan-Grilled Seabass D'Jour served with creamed spinach risotto. For desserts: a choice of Azzurro Signature (the restaurant's very own mousse cake covered with Lindt chocolate icing) or La Collection (a combination of three signature desserts). Of course, a dinner of good old Mediterranean flavors will never be complete without wine. For Valentine's Day, a free glass of Gran Tierra Spanish Red or White Wine from Titania Wine Cellar awaits you, making the occasion all the more special. Call 6371440 or 6387878 locals 8448 and 8447 (Azzurro at The Linden Suites), or 8842239 (Azzurro Somerset Millennium).

ILUSTRADO Restaurant offers Tea for Two. Hot savories, assorted sandwiches and mini-desserts with a pot of tea will be available. For Valentine, couples will also get to take home mini heart-shaped, mocha-buttercream cake. A surprise gift comes with a bottle of Chateau La Gordonne, a Cotes de Provence rose from the wine portfolio of Future Trade International. Call 5273674 to 75 or 5272345.

MEZZE RESTAURANT AND BAR at Greenbelt 2, Makati offers a special Valentine menu prepared by chefs Carlo Estagle and Christine Zarandin. On Feb. 13-15, Mezze will be serving a full-course dinner. Starter is Symphony of Salmons consisting of Salmon Tournedos Cold-Poached over Minted Tabouli, Cilantro Salmon in Seaweed Parcel draped with Raw Quail Egg, and Terrine of Smoked Salmon and Asparagus with Arugula Pesto. This is followed by an original fruit-and-cheese salad medley, Orchard Interlude. (Apples, Walnuts, Mesclun Mix with Roquefort Blue Cheese and Morel Mushroom Galantine). The main entrée is Steak Sonata with Aquarian Aria, a combo of Angus Rib-Eye Steak with Rosemary Potato Gratin and Bone Marrow, paired with Pan-Roasted Chilean Sea Bass in Prosciutto Crust served with Wild Mushroom Risoto and Basil-Tomato Fondue. For dessert, diners may choose between Strawberries and Cream Rose Cake and Chocolate Aphrodisia with Nougat Glace. The dinner is P1,888 per person inclusive of a glass of wine. Call 7288896 to 96 or send an SMS to 0915-5175994.

FRENCH BAKER celebrates Valentine's Day with Mango Almond Pastry. Made with almond powder, coconut flour and rich cream, this charming treat is topped by the freshest mango, strawberry or red cherry and chocolate curl. Captivate your beloved's heart with this luscious delight and celebrate love in all its sweetness. Complete your pastry love affair with The French Baker's all-time favorite treats: scones, crepes, muffins and cream puffs. Exclusively available at The French Baker's 30 outlets in and around Metro Manila and in Pampanga, Dasmariñas, and Metro Cebu.

UCC COFFEE shops will be giving away a heart-shaped balloons with promo coupons to diners until Feb. 14. Visit UCC outlets on Valentine's Day and present your coupons to get free cup of coffee when you order any entree in the menu.

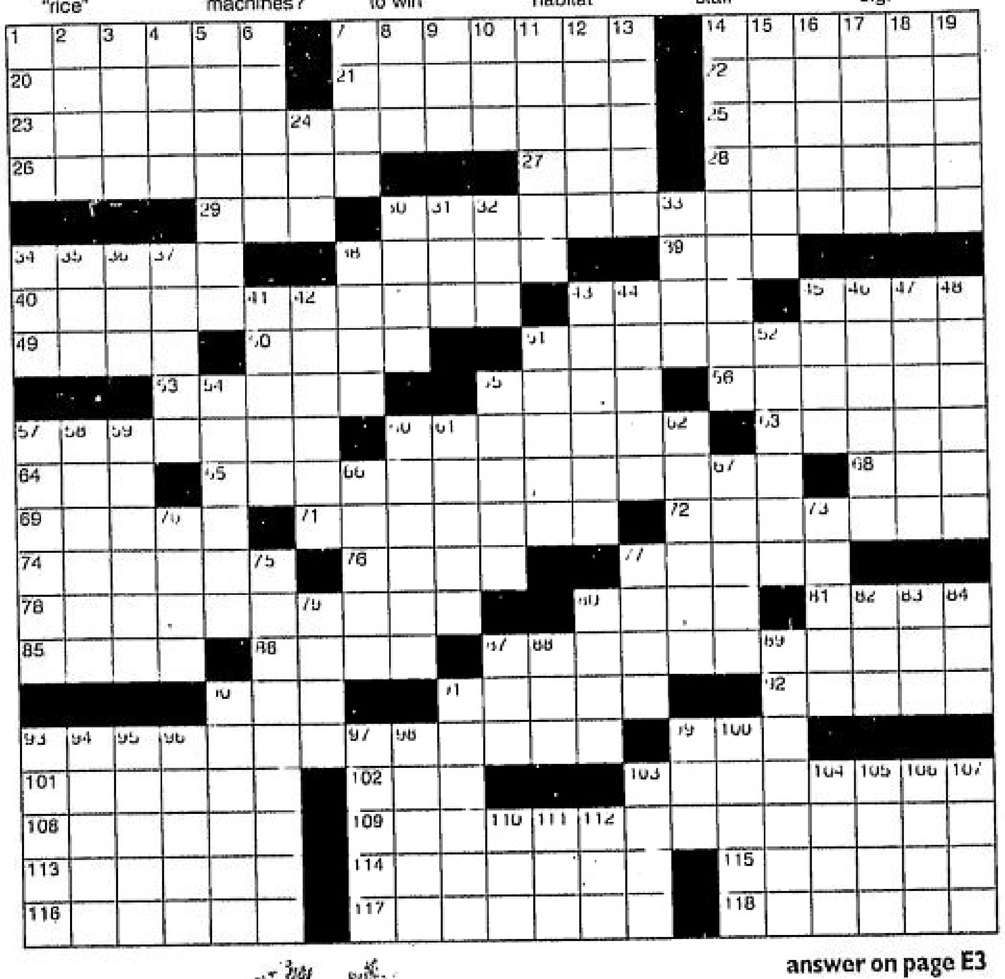
SWEET concoctions for a one-of-a-kind Valentine's dinner at Mandarin Café & Deli at Gateway Mall

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo ANOTHER WAY

ACROSS
1 Heathens
7 Doles out
14 Watering hole
20 Wide street
21 Genie's master
22 Right away
23 Shorten a span?
25 Cry after a clever comeback
26 Designates
27 Mermaid's place
28 Took place next
29 Purpose
30 Film a sports team?
34 Storied firefighter Red
38 Actor Robards
39 90-degree angle
40 Hit a piece of furniture repeatedly?
43 Spy Mata —
45 —' Pea ("Popeye" kid)
49 Pigeon shed
50 Leak slowly
51 Tiny list?
53 Spanish for "rice"
55 Touch down
56 Puts forth, as power
57 Separator of airplane seats
60 Given as a prize
63 San Diego ballplayer
64 Day, in Durango
65 Shine some kielbasa?
68 Snakelike fish
69 River to the Caspian
71 Signs up
72 Sacred sites
74 Roma locale
76 Saab model
77 Injections
78 Seams?
80 Iowa city
81 Helper
85 Shallowest Great Lake
86 Get ready
87 Abandon a refreshing spot?
90 Zadora or Lindstrom
91 Macabre
92 Joint woes
93 Power produced by farm machines?
99 Like Santa Claus
101 Peace Nobelist Sakharov
102 Regret a lot
103 Boy Scout get-together
108 News summaries
109 Enrage arsonists?
113 Give a lecture to
114 Illustrates like a mime
115 Light sleep
116 UFO crewmen
117 Lay away
118 Gnarled

DOWN
1 Speed
2 Cosmetics giant
3 British guy
4 Opponent
5 Promote growth in
6 Animals in pods
7 "Phooey!"
8 Province west of Sask.
9 Pothole filler
10 Mean Amin
11 Heavily favored to win
12 African nation
13 Golf great Sam
14 Moon
15 Lacking a key center
16 Crummy
17 At just the right time
18 Reddish yellow
19 Can't do without
24 Mediocre grade
30 Broccoli — (salad green)
31 Course for U.S. immigrants
32 Track star Sebastian
33 Inca's home
34 "Lost" network
35 Trio minus one
36 Sternward
37 Lead-in to a bit of bad news
38 Bebop, e.g.
41 Body trunk
42 Sound of a flute
43 Believers in Brahma
44 Llama's habitat
45 New York stadium
46 Jailer
47 Main course
48 Failed Fords
51 French Revolution leader
52 Pro
54 Fix
55 Ranch rope
57 Give tips to
58 Insurgent
59 African nation
60 In dreamland
61 Spinning sounds
62 One of Santa's reindeer
66 Ludicrous
67 Specter
70 Great delight
73 Jacob's father
75 Climbers of Swiss peaks
77 "Hook" pirate
79 "Dies —" (Requiem Mass hymn)
80 Sale stipulation
82 Suffix with Finn or shrew
83 Sputter and stall
84 Double curve
87 Last mo.
88 Before, to a bard
89 Good source of dietary fiber
90 Cobbler container
91 Raises, as a building
93 Magna —
94 Court star Shaquille
95 Nero's 1,651
96 Heed a red light
97 Monastery man
98 Pound part
99 Adjective for the Beatles
100 In a frenzy: Var.
103 Ballet leap
104 Not fooled by
105 Lease topic
106 Part of Q.E.D.
107 Glimpse from afar
110 Compass pt.
111 "— any drop to drink"
112 Jeep Grand Cherokee, e.g.



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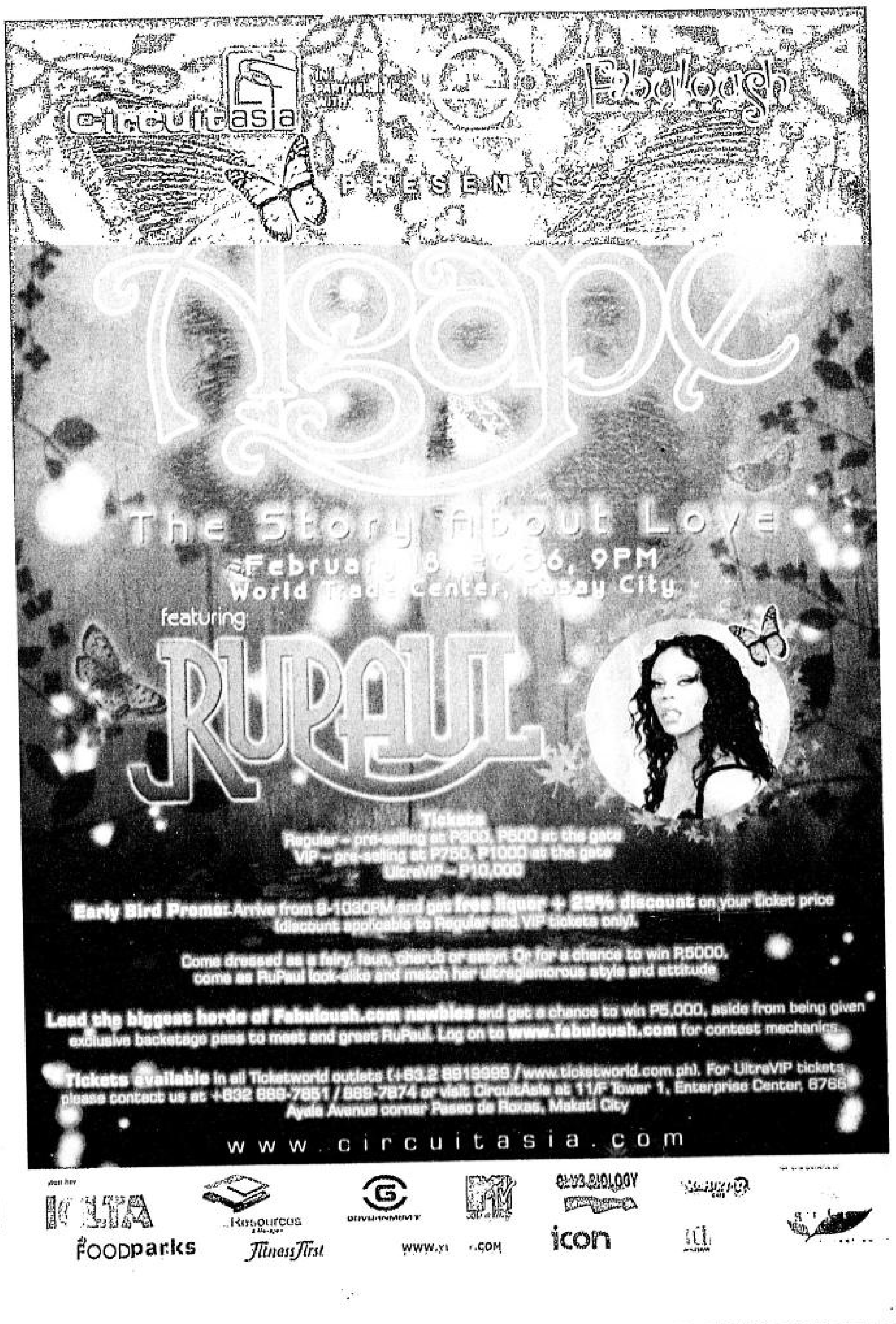

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PRESENTS
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The Story About Love
February 18, 2006, 9PM
World Trade Center, Pasay City
featuring
RuPaul

Tickets
Regular – pre-selling at P300, P500 at the gate
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Come dressed as a fairy, faun, cherub or satyr. Or for a chance to win P5000, come as RuPaul look-alike and match her ultraglamorous style and attitude

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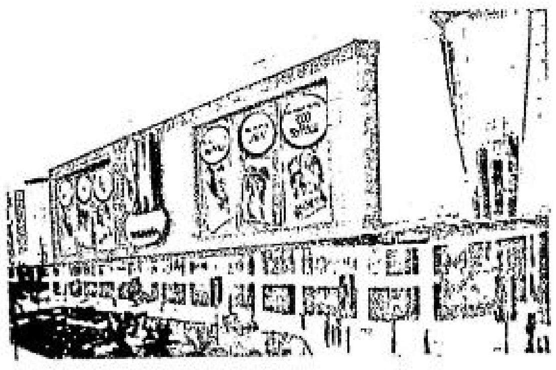
Super saver days at SM Supermalls



SM Supercenter Valenzuela
Convenient neighborhood shopping for the whole family

SM City Sta. Mesa
Shopping favorite of students, commuters and families

Three big days of super buys await shoppers at SM City Sta. Mesa and SM Supercenter Valenzuela on Feb. 17, 18, and 19. The 3 DAY SALE event offers up to 50% discount on a broad selection of merchandise including apparel, fashion accessories, home furnishings, baby basics, sporting goods, I.T. gadgets and appliances.

3 day sale

feb 17. 18. 19

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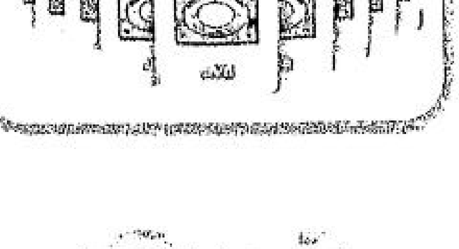

mall hours: 10am-10pm

SM City STA. MESA

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

See mechanics posters for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0166, Series of 2006

WIN NEW AUDIO!

at stake

JVC 10 XA-HD500 DIGITAL AUDIO PLAYERS PER MALL

DRAW SCHEDULE
(Sta. Mesa & Valenzuela)
9pm, Sunday Feb. 19

As an additional value offer to mallers, SM City Sta. Mesa and SM Supercenter Valenzuela are giving away 10 JVC XA-HD500 Digital Audio Players per mall as take-home prizes for the raffle event!

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket, or from any participating mall establishment entitles shoppers to join the raffle.

- SM Food Court - Customer gets one raffle coupon for every P150 single or accumulated purchase.
- SM Cinema - Customer gets one raffle coupon for every single purchase of four cinema tickets.
- Amusement Centers - Customer gets one raffle coupon for every P100 single purchase of token/s.

SM CINEMA

Experience the new SM Cinemas. Its luxurious seating, great sounds and wide screen facilities invite mallers to relax and enjoy the latest movies in airconditioned comfort.

SM FOODCOURT

Join the "JUICY MEALS, JUICY DEALS!" promo (on-going until February 26) when you dine at SM Food Court. Offering a variety of specialty food counters, SM FoodCourt is the ideal place to take time out from bargain hunting and replenish your energy before you shop some more in the mall.

Sunday LIFESTYLE
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

SUPER-SIZE love blooms

MANDY NAVASERO

Lovable giants

IF SHE'S ALLERGIC TO roses, how about giving her gigantic full-blown blooms that come in a rainbow of colors?

Paradizoo Farms of The Tagaytay Residence Inn offers Paradizoo blooms in red for Valentine, as well as blue, green, yellow and peach.

Paradizoo will deliver an order for three blooms, lovingly wrapped, to any place in Metro Manila for an additional fee of P50 to P100. Each arranged bloom costs P695 but may be bought at P495 each without the flower arrangement.

The giant blooms will soon be grown at the Paradizoo Farms of the Tagaytay Residence Inn.

Paradizoo Giant Blooms may be viewed and ordered at the third floor of the Yupangco building on the corner of Nicanor Garcia Street and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Brgy. Bel Air, Makati City. Another option is Tagaytay Residence Inn on Km. 65, Barrio Neogan, Cavite.

Call 8999824 or 8999595 local 345 or text 0917-8351111.

PARADIZOO giant blooms with packaging

MANDY NAVASERO

Get a chance to win
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every week for 10 weeks!
Plus Nokia phones, iPod Shuffles, a Creative Muvo Chameleon and an Intel Pentium D PC!

Promo runs from February 7 to April 25, 2006 only.

Register now and make that PERFECT HIT in Asia's hottest fantasy online game!
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See poster and flyer for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0126, Series of 2006.

Powered by:
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1 hit challenge
over ₱1,000,000 in total prizes!
FREE FOR LIFE
SMART
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Valentine's Concert
Pops Fernandez and Side A
February 12, 2006, 6PM
Glorietta 4 Park
Ayala Center Makati

Valentine's Promo
Spend at least P500 at any Ayala Mall establishment this month and get a chance to win his and hers Breitling, Raymond Weil, Lacoste, or Kenneth Cole watches.
See leaflets for details.

Romancing the Town
Stand-Up Comedy Show
Tim Tayag and Al Manalo
February 11, 2006, 6:30PM
Town Plaza,
Alabang Town Center

At Ayala Malls,
Love is all around.

Moonlight Serenade
Manila Philharmonic Orchestra and Gino Padilla
February 14, 2006
Dinner starts at 7PM
Show starts at 8PM
Lagoon Area
Ayala Center Cebu

Valentine's Concert
Santos Ventura Hocorma Foundation Inc. Brass Band
February 14, 2006, 5PM
Activity Center
Market! Market!

Free Valentine's Gift Promo
Free flowers, Maybelline and Promesse Cacharel gifts for dining families and couples
February 11, 12 & 14, 2006
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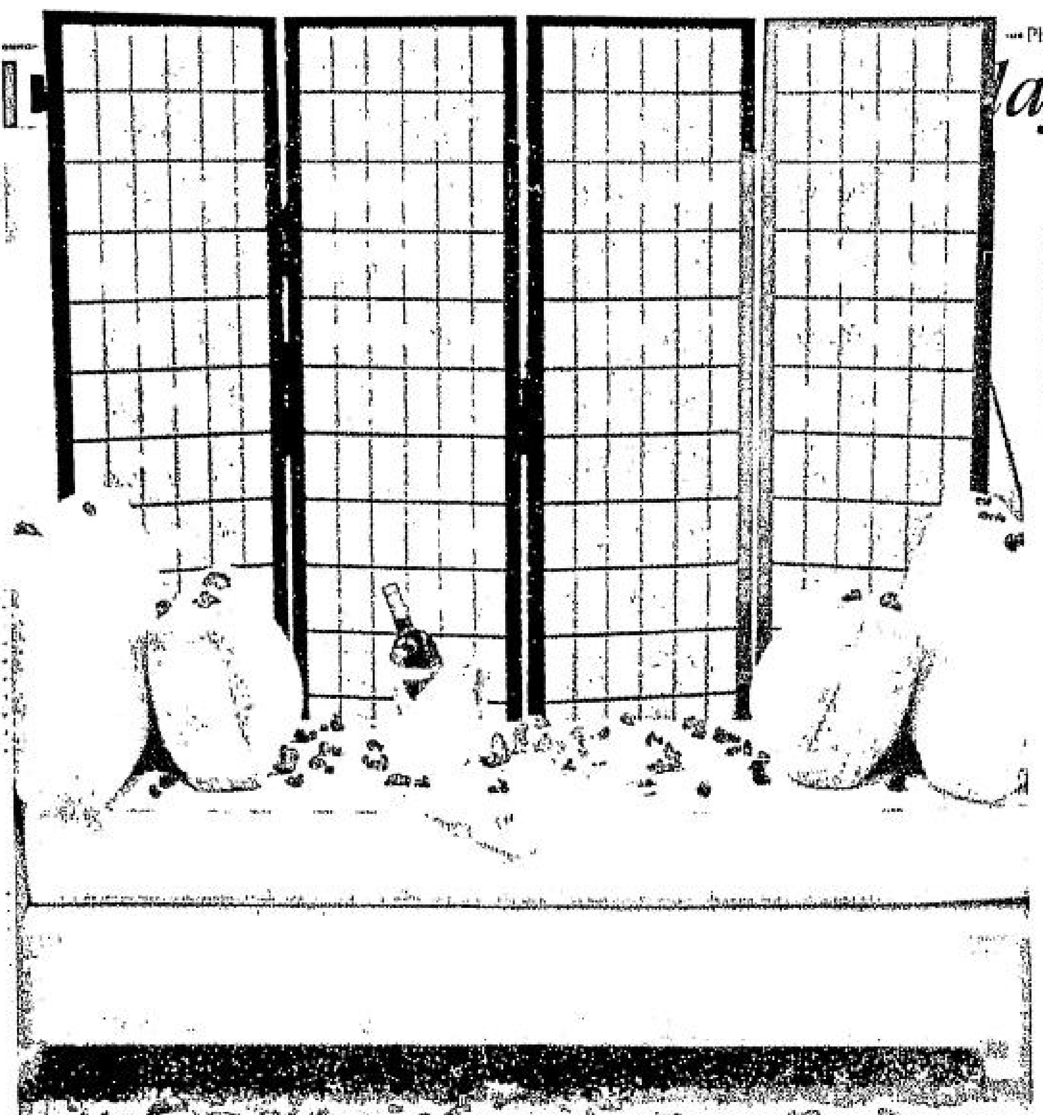
AYALA MALLS LoveMall! www.ayalamalls.com.ph

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0164, Series of 2006



SEDUCTION is in the mind with this divan (left) strewn with the red blooms of Cock's Comb. If he is too dense to get the message, a casually draped lingerie item by J. Lo promises something more than just wine and dinner. For the person who prefers four-legged devotion to fickle human affection, a small round table (right) is set to hold treats for both master and pet.

Create your own romantic space

Home is where the heart is, indeed

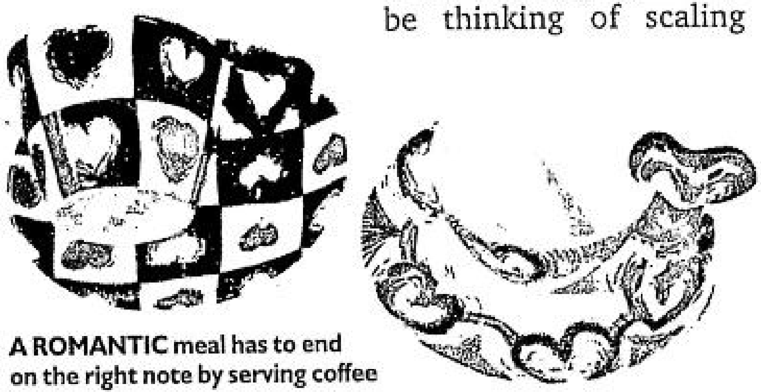
Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Romy Homillada

WITH THE COST of things as they are—driven even higher by E-vat despite assurances to the contrary by the government—many people may be thinking of scaling down their expressions of love and affection.

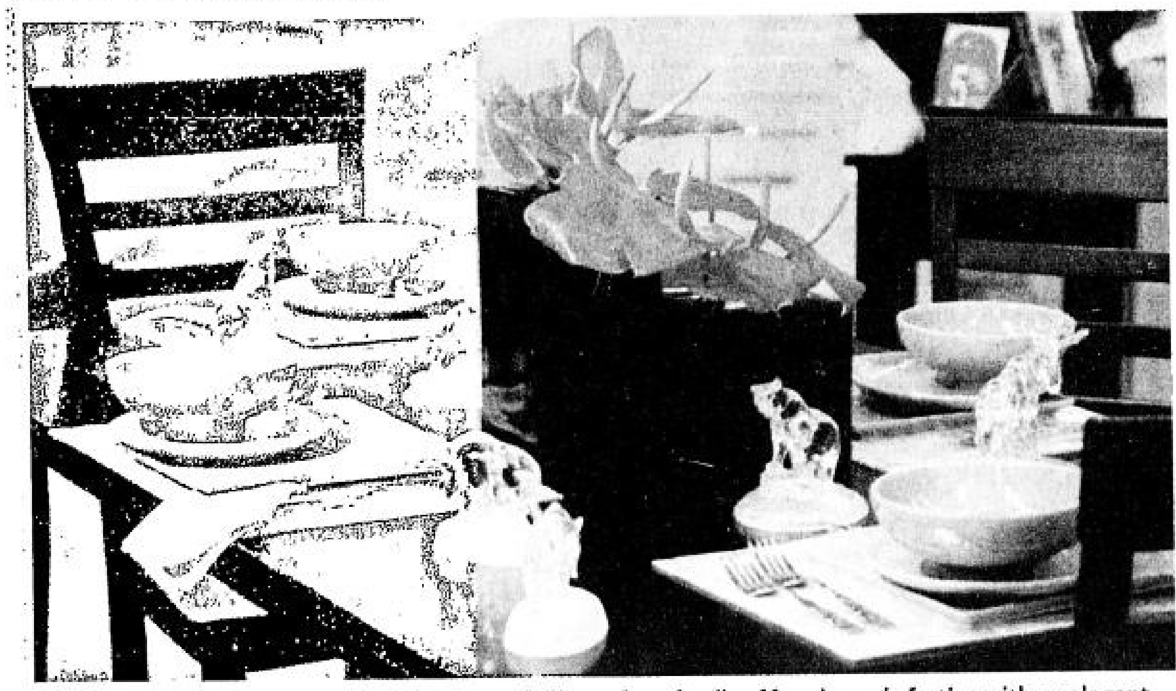
Even for those to whom price is no object, only the most incurably romantic (and those desperate to impress) will put up with the hassle of booking a table for lunch or dinner on Valentine's Day, not to mention the traffic and shortage of parking spaces.

For the practical souls out there who want to make Valentine's Day special, there are ways to have a romantic tete à tete or to strengthen family love in the privacy and comfort of your own home.

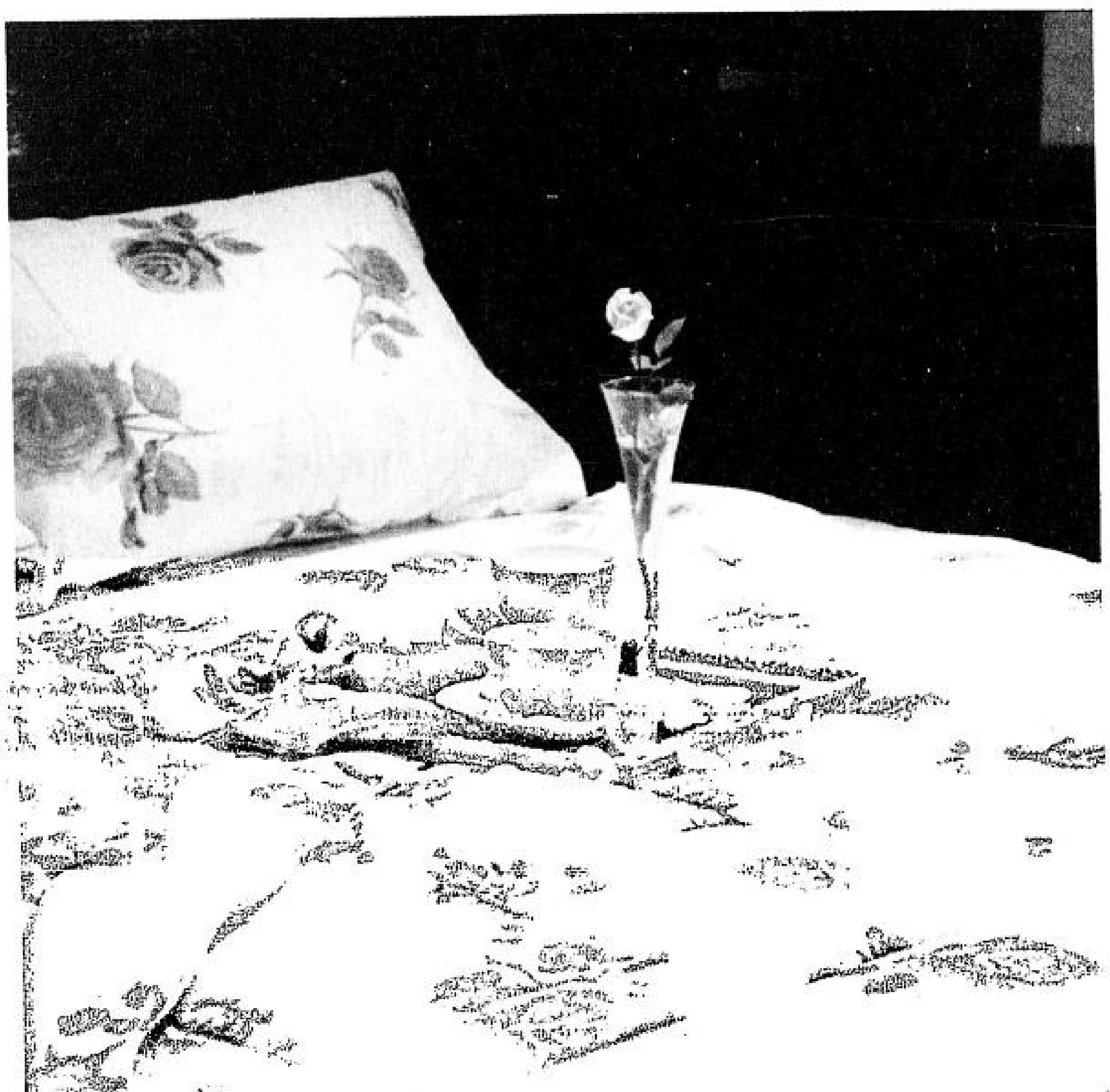
Stylist Rachy Cuna, using furniture and accessories from Crossings at Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Shaw Boulevard, offers some ideas on how to enjoy a love-filled Valentine's Day without leaving your love nest.



A ROMANTIC meal has to end on the right note by serving coffee in 'hearty' tea cups and saucers.



VALENTINE'S DAY is about family love, too. A dinner for a family of four is made festive with an elegant table setting of imported china, choice silverware and capiz placemats. A simple arrangement of pink anthuriums and crystal animal pieces provide the finishing touches.



NEWLYWEDS or "old" married couples can keep romance and passion vibrant by sharing a romantic late Valentine breakfast or early dinner on a bed of roses.

World-class roses for Valentine's

By Serapion S. Metilla
Contributor

ROSES REMAIN THE QUEEN OF flowers and the No. 1 bestseller on Valentine's Day.

But the blooms often disappoint not only because supply is limited but also because, despite the price, the quality is often such that the flowers are wilted even just a day or so after Feb. 14.

Simply producing more to meet the demand is not enough. Roses also have to be of the best quality, including having lovely coloration.

To meet the demand for quality blooms, Armando Andaya, president of the Philippine Cutflower Corp., has set up seven state-of-the-art greenhouses in Barangay Buck Estate, Alfonso, Cavite, near Tagaytay City.

Its opening was graced by former First Lady Amelita Ramos, a plant lover, as guest of honor, together with Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Secretary of Agriculture Domingo Panganiban.

Arnold Andaya, vice president for operations, said the glasshouses, equipped with the most advanced technology in the country today, were designed according to its location to enhance aeration, humidity, light, temperature and performance.

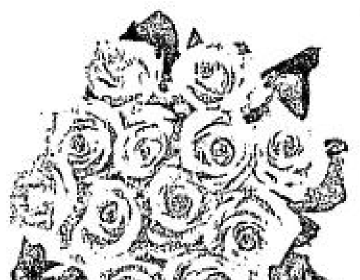
Good-quality blooms are indicated by perfect form, long vase life, long stems, leathery texture and vibrant coloration. A good plant should be floriferous, capable of blooming all year round.

Carrying the brand Islandroses, the different varieties produced at the company are Osiana, an elegant peach; Texas, a vibrant golden-yellow; Noblesse, salmon-pink; the most popular, the thornless Grand Gala, with thick stems and dark red color; Lambada, a unique bright orange; Red Giant, with straight stems, thick foliage and long vase life; Salsa, deep orange and large buds much appreciated when in full bloom; Vivaldi, light pink; Christine, yellow with long thick stems and strong buds; Tineke, creamy white with big buds, nice thick stems and good vase life; Gloria, immaculate white, perfect for weddings; and Red France, popular in Europe with vibrant red buds and moderate stem thickness.

Islandroses, which also export, is considered by many flower shop operators to have the best roses in the country today.

Call 8163091 or visit www.islandrose.com.ph. Large orders have to be made at least three months in advance.

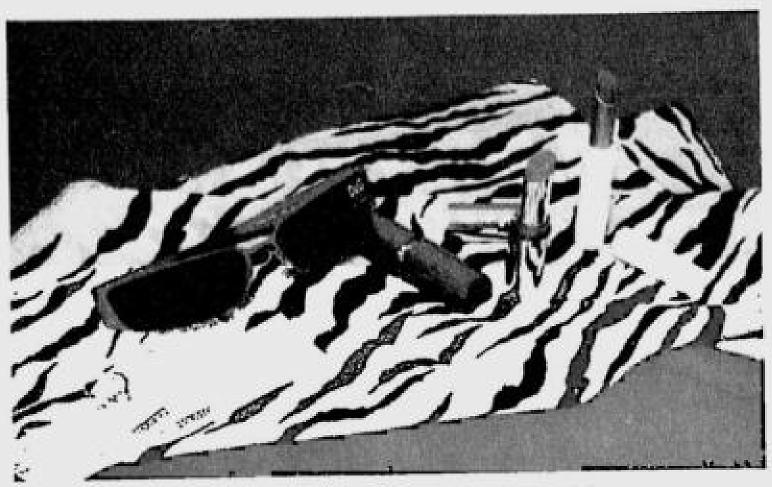
FOR something different, a yellow and white bouquet



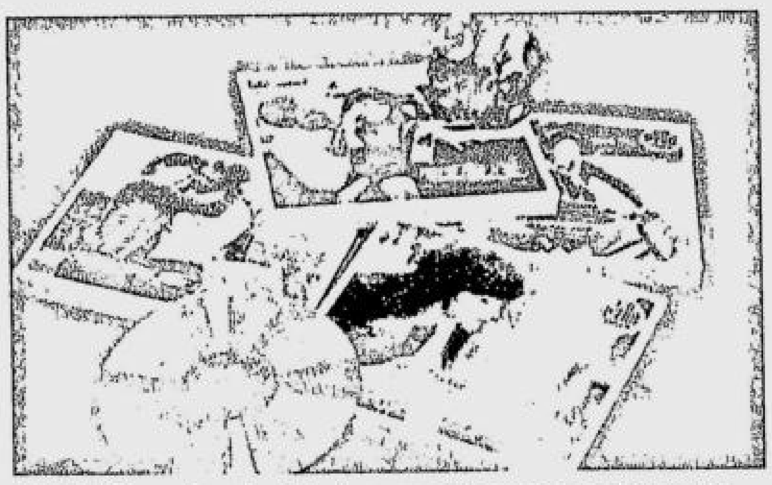
PEACH is getting to be a favorite color.

RED roses remain the bestseller.

RED Giant variety of roses is grown in the 4,000-sq m glass greenhouse.



CHECK out makeup sets, accessories and other gift ideas at Robinsons Department Store.

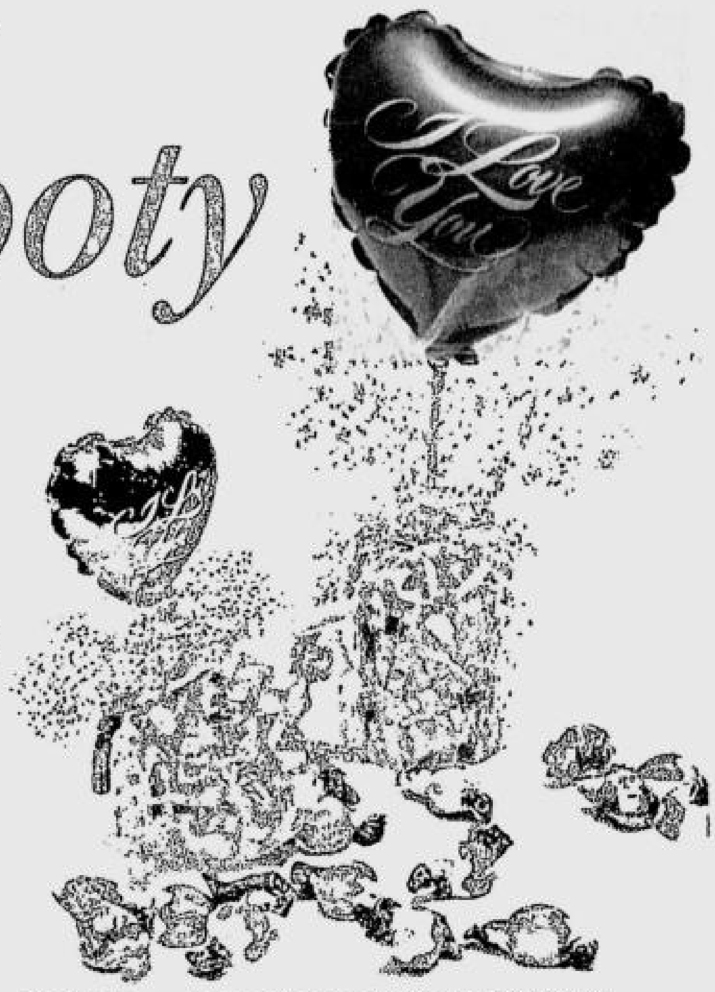


REAFFIRM your love by giving your special someone a CD of songs you both love and want to dance to. Available at Robinsons.

Love booty

Valentine's provides the best occasion for the best gifts. Professions of love require the best tokens of expressions. Here are some timely, tasteful suggestions

BRING on a smile with a beautiful arrangement of classic red roses with select foliage from The Flower Farm.



SAYING it sweetly. Heart-shaped balloons with Samba chocolates from SM

TIMEX
WE 10-14
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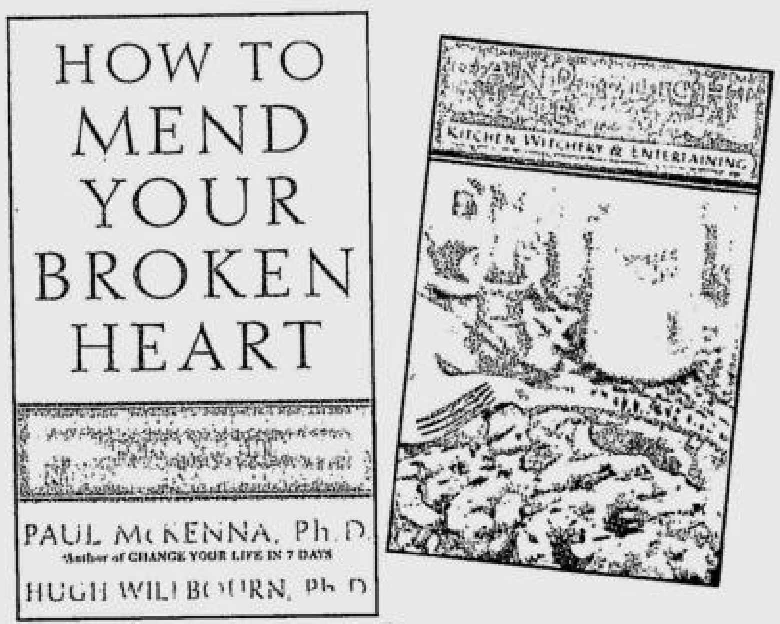
THE TIMEX Perpetual Calendar Watch (left) and the Timex Ironman Triathlon Watch—both must-haves for active men .


HOW TO MEND YOUR BROKEN HEART
PAUL McKENNA, Ph.D.
Author of CHANGE YOUR LIFE IN 7 DAYS
HUGH WILLBOURN, Ph.D.
KITCHEN WITCHERY & ENTERTAINING

READ your way to kitchen romance or emotional recovery with these life-affirming books, available at National Book Store.

EVOKE memories of love with this V-Day card with silver necklace and heart-shaped pendant from SM.

A Little Romance

EXPRESS your sweet side with A Little Romance from Sara Lee Direct Selling.

MAGIC Sing Silver/Magic Sing duet mic (left) and Cobra two-way radio

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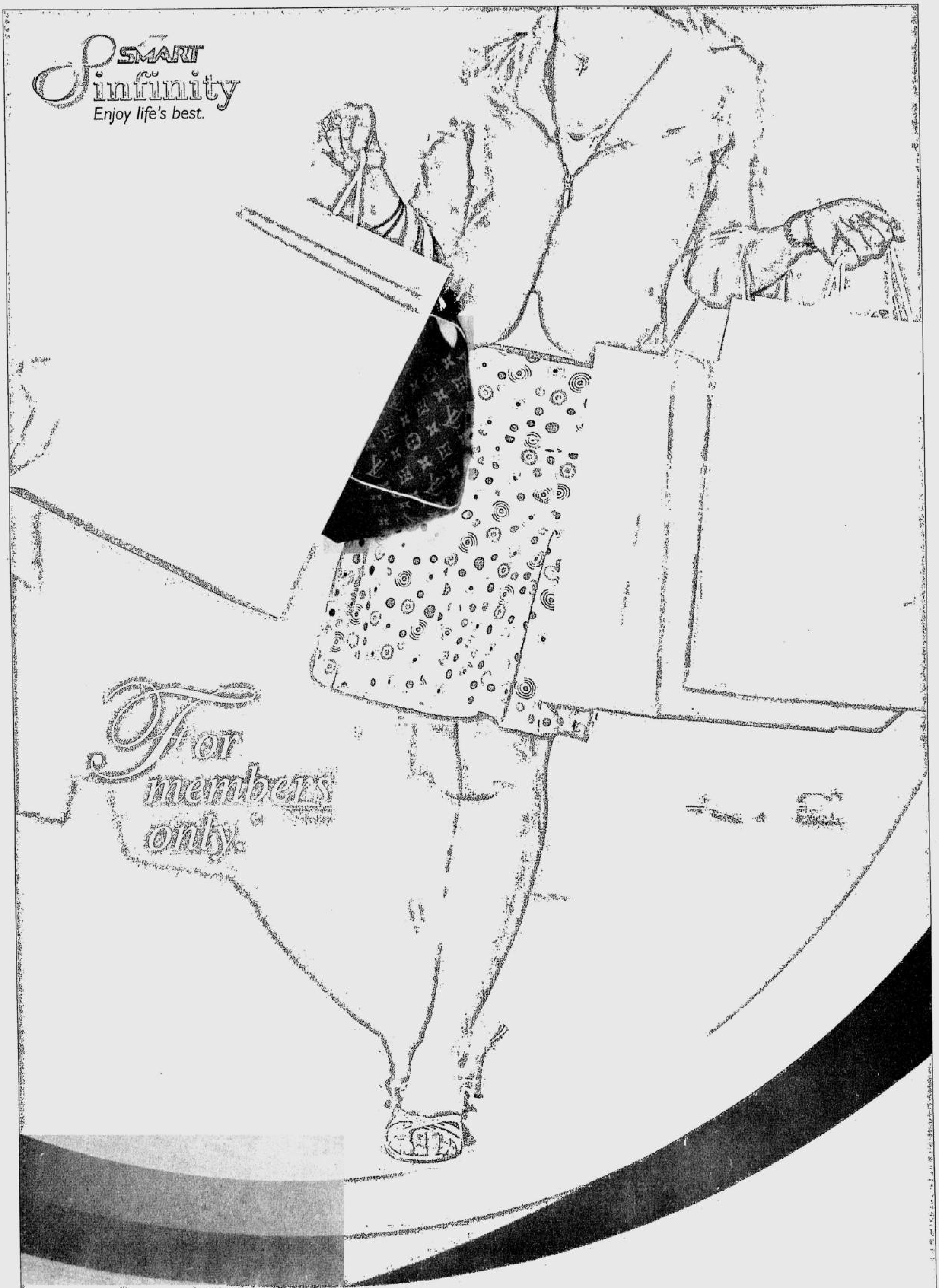
For members only.

This Valentine season, SMART Infinity cardholders can enjoy great discounts at Rustan's.

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inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor's rave Board

Lost and happily found

A DOCTOR AFFILIATED WITH ST. LUKE'S Medical Center made time one Sunday to attend a friend's wedding. The reception was held at the grand ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Manila. He chatted with friends, had a quick dinner, posed for a photo with the newlyweds, then headed out after an hour. At about 11 p.m. at home, he noticed his mobile phone was missing, a good 2½ hours after he had left the ballroom. He must have left the phone on the table at the reception, he thought, so he dialed the Mandarin trunk line.

Raise your hand if you think he got it back.

What? No hands?

In a random poll of cell-phone users, the number of respondents who said that it was highly unlikely the young doctor would recover his cellphone was twice the number of those who said he might get it back if he were extremely, extremely lucky.

The naysayers cannot be blamed. Everyday you read in the news about lowlifes who make a living out of snatching Nokias and selling them to *tiangge* used-phone vendors.

These days, pickpockets are no longer interested in your wallet. They'd rather take your newfangled Sony Ericsson, especially if they've espied that it's the classy type that comes with a superb camera.

So if people are forcibly stealing cell phones, even stabbing resisting victims, how can you even entertain the idea that a maître d', a waitress or a busboy who finds a phone on a table in a crowded hotel ballroom will return it to its owner?

But that was what happened the night Dr. Martin Magsanoc lost his mobile phone.

The hotel switchboard operator, Mylene Ondo, upon getting a description of the missing phone (a Nokia 1100) and the number of the table at which Magsanoc was earlier seated (No. 36), informed head waiter Carlos Rejoso.

Instead of asking someone else to go look in the ballroom, Rejoso himself went and spotted the phone where Magsanoc said he must have left it. The head waiter turned over the phone to guest services managers Oliver Esguerra and Martin Lanuza, who then informed the hotel operator.

It took only five minutes—that short and sweet— before Magsanoc got the good news from the operator that yes, they found his phone. He then sent his driver over to the Mandarin with his Professional Regulations Commission card and a letter authorizing the bearer to retrieve his phone.

"Now that's service," says Magsanoc, who thinks that it wouldn't have mattered if his phone was a more expensive model or if he wasn't a doctor. In the Mandarin universe, he still would have gotten his phone back.

Yes, that's Service! It reflects the hotel's excellent personnel training: Do not waste time in finding whatever a guest loses. It also speaks of individual integrity, something we are in dire need of these days. And it makes for damn good news. Please pass.

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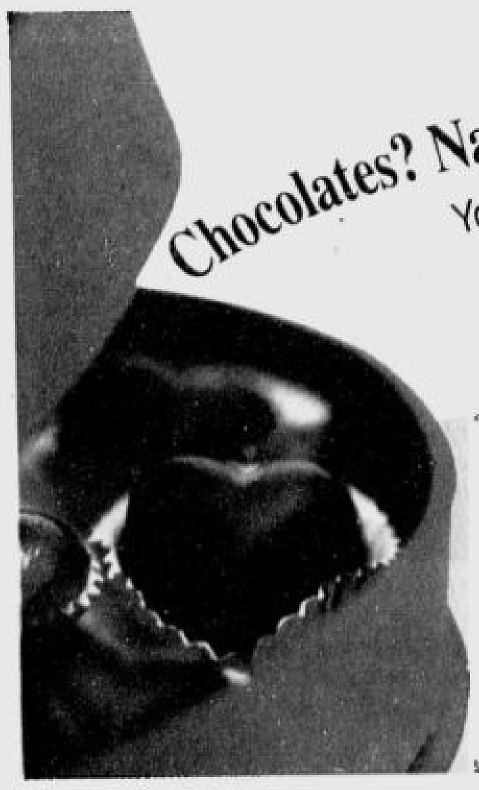
See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4088, Series of 2005.



Chocolates? Nah. Nothing can be sweeter than the sound of your loved one's voice.
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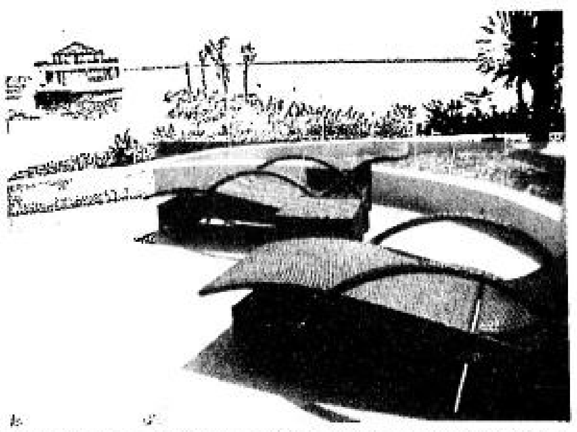
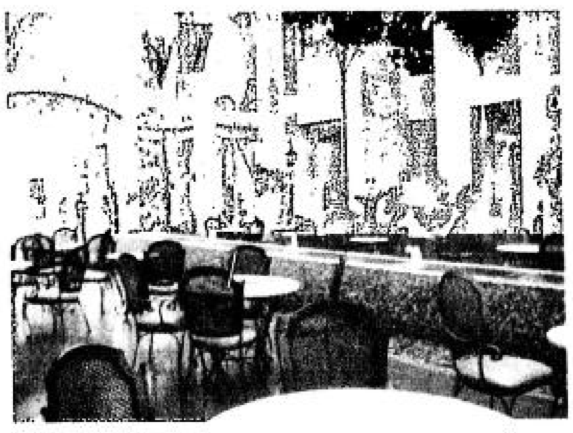
THE END of the wharf with panoramic views of the sea and outlying islands


RELISH the sun in one of these lounge chairs at the spa.

VANILLA Beach Café offers local, regional and Mediterranean food.


THE PINK Lobby lounge and bar serves savories, snacks, java, tea and lifestyle beverages along with signature Pink cocktails.

In the pink of indulgence

Cebu's Hilton Resort and Spa beckons to world-weary travelers with its sinful attractions

Text and photos by Ruth L. Navarra

IT'S WHEN TIME STOPS THAT you know your vacation has begun. It could be anywhere—at a hammock on your backyard or the start of a two-day trip to Baguio.

But any diehard beach bum would say there's nothing like entering the surfer's state of mind. Indeed, what could be more romantic or relaxing than the sound of waves breaking the silence, the wind stroking your hair, and the sun kissing your skin?

One of the advantages of being in a tropical country is that no matter what time of the year it is, the sea is almost always welcoming. There are numerous destinations to choose from. But Cebu just made itself a little harder to resist with the opening of Hilton Resort and Spa.

At first glance, what sets Cebu Hilton apart from the rest of the hotels in Mactan Island is its color. It comes in the most shocking corral pink. But chair Manuel Osmeña (not related to the political Osmeñas) has a good explanation for this choice of hue.

"My favorite place in the world is the French Riviera. Buildings there are painted with lively colors like this," he says. "My constructors and I worked so hard for months to achieve this shade of pink, but to no success."

Not inclined to give up, Osmeña asked a friend who was vacationing in the Riviera to chip a piece of a house there. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Details

After the color, what you would remember next about the resort is the service and the memorable little details. Beyond the required smiles, the members of the staff take time to remember your name—not very easy if you have to serve guests of all 246 rooms.

After a room cleanup, they also leave complimentary sweets and fresh fruits. The towels and robe are 100-percent cotton with jacquard weaving.

"We value our customers. If you have any complaints, even the smallest ones, just approach the lobby and we'll take care of it for you," Osmeña says.

The rooms will tempt you to just laze on the bed, watch some DVDs borrowed from the front desk and spend the whole day daydreaming.

But why do that when there's an infinity pool waiting for you to dip in? There's the white sand and the sea asking you to frolic in them. You can windsurf, jet ski, dive and snorkel, or you can allot a day for island-hopping.

If stress from work still weighs you down, head to the spa and enjoy the pampering you deserve. If you have kids, the resort also has activities especially for them.

Freshly squeezed

To assuage those pangs of hunger, there are five restaurants and bars to choose from. In the morning, discover what an event breakfast could be.

When you enter the Vanilla Beach Café, the first thing that would welcome you is the scent of the freshly baked bread Hilton is popular for. The orange juice is freshly squeezed and not something brought out of the bottle or carton.

Each dish is color-coded according to your preference, whether it's low fat and low calorie, low cholesterol, low cholesterol, hi-energy, high fiber or big time (their way of saying "to heck with labels"). This means that whatever diet you're following—South Beach, Atkins, love yourself—there's something for you in the buffet.

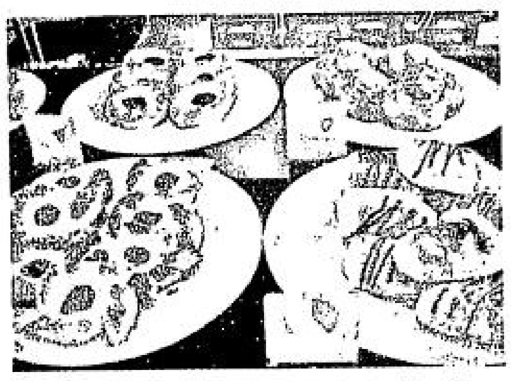
Another interesting food you might want to try is the Wagyu Beef Burger, available at the Manny O's Wine & Tapas. This is probably the most expensive burger you'd ever sink your teeth into, as it costs more than P1,000. And it's not always on the menu.

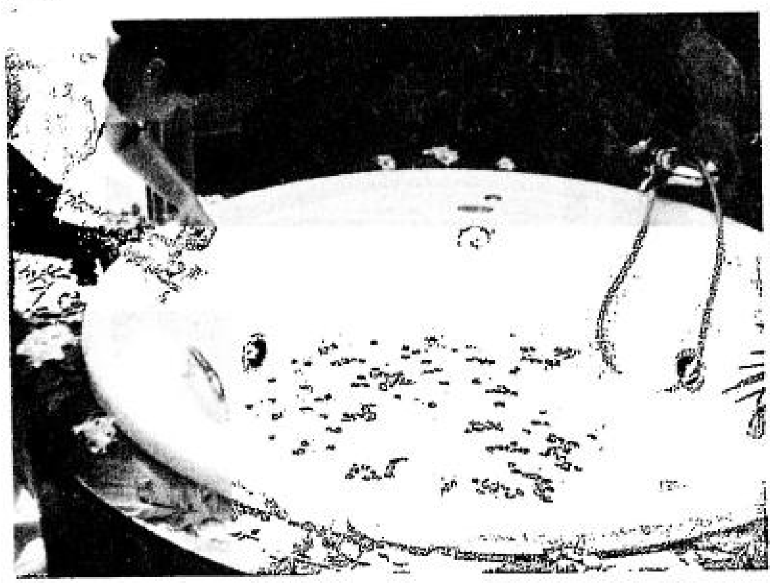
Why the steep price? Because the cooks have to prepare the cow for six months before it gets slaughtered. After that, the beef is massaged in a very "special way." Hmmm...

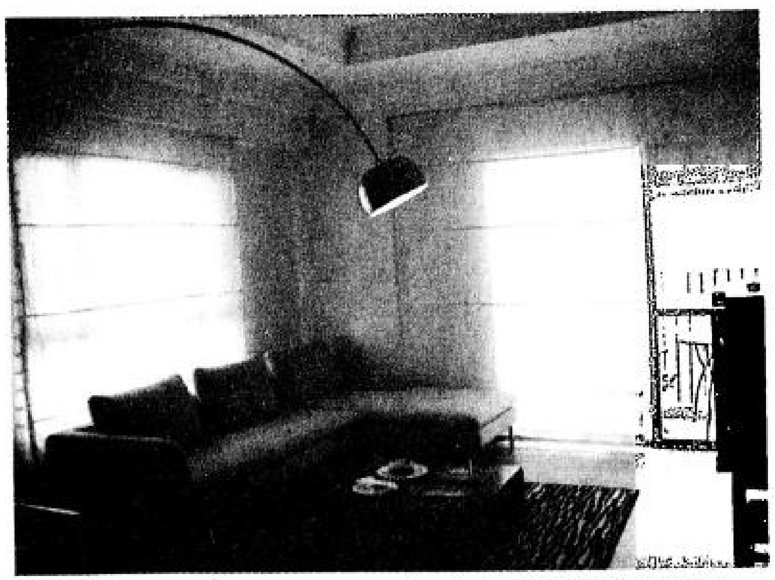
If you've had enough indulgences, you can attempt to shed some recently acquired pounds in the gym, steam room and tennis court. But why bother? Indulgence is the whole point of perfect vacations, right?

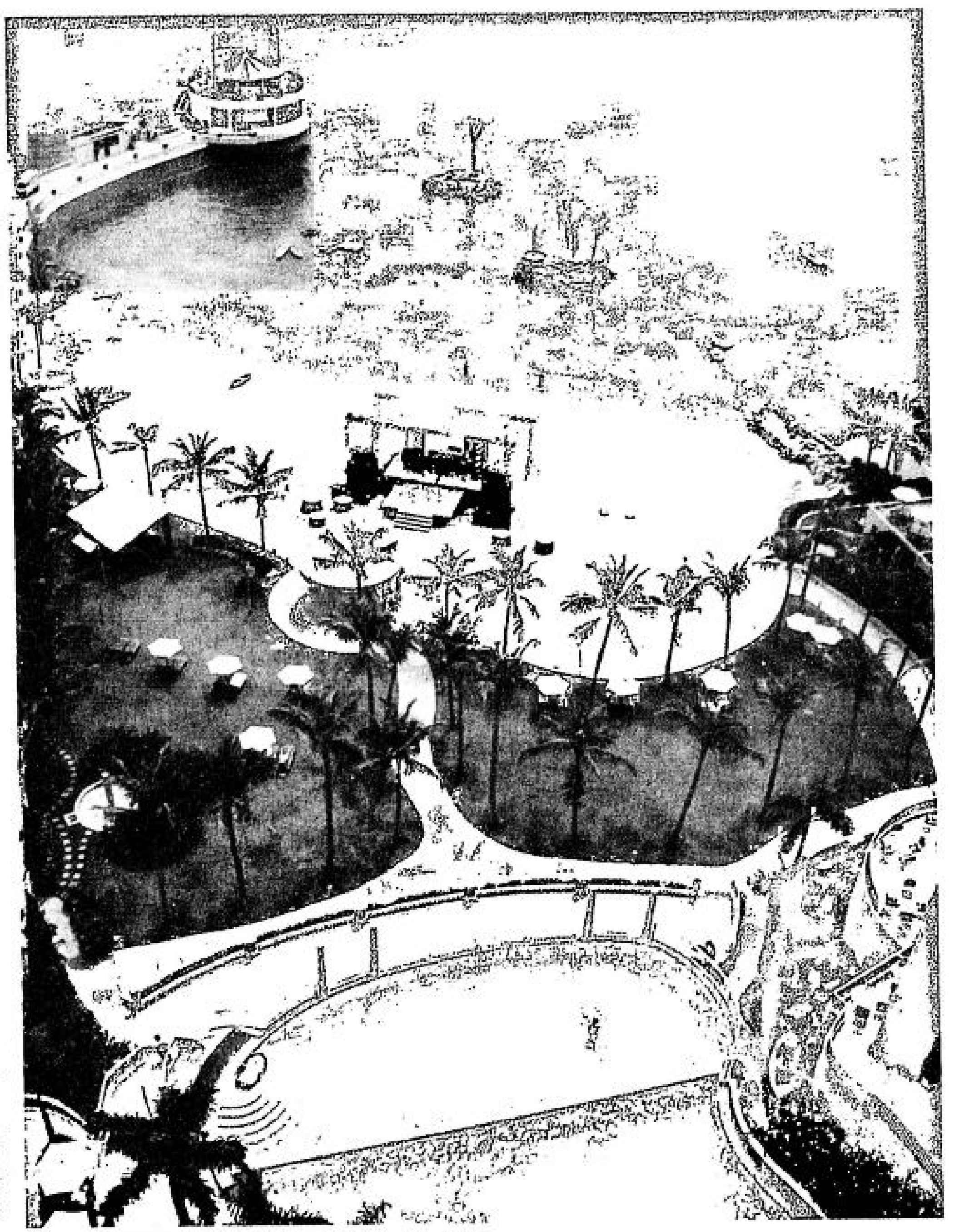
Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa is at Punta Engaòo, Mactan Island. Call (332) 4927777 or (392) 4927707. E-mail cebu@hilton.com or visit www.hilton.com/worldwideresorts

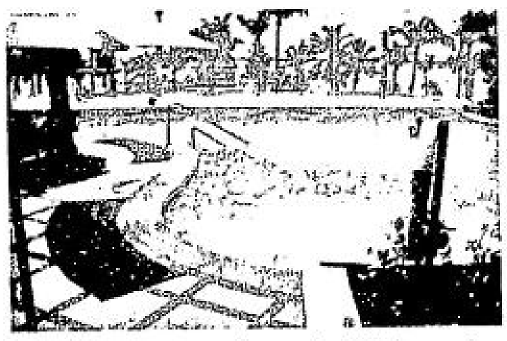
EAT your meals al fresco at the Vanilla Beach Café.

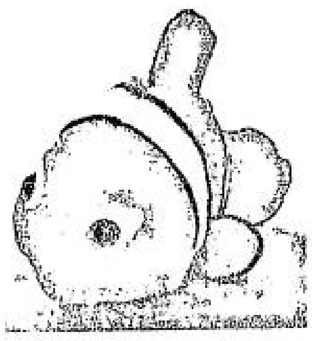

THE FAMOUS Hilton breads, baked fresh daily

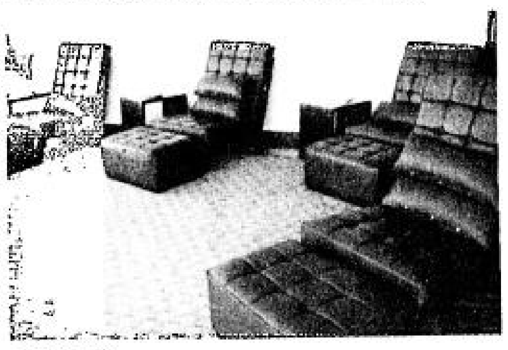

BEFORE your massage, take a dip in the jacuzzi sprinkled with rose petals.

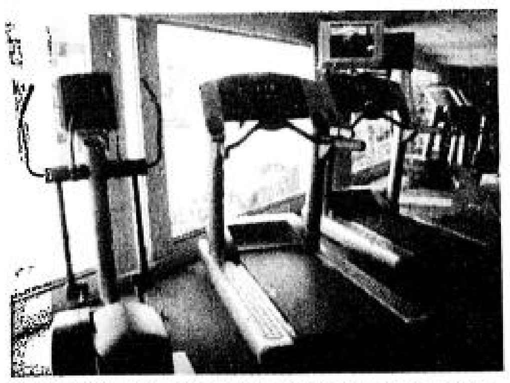

SOME rooms provide you a personal spa butler who will do all the scheduling worries for you. You can have the masseuse sent up to your room.


BREATHTAKING view from your window


PRACTICE your strokes at the infinity pool.


FOR P500, you can take home Sebu, the official mascot of the hotel. Some of the proceeds will go to the conservation of Cebu's marine life.


THE SPA


SHAKE that booty at the hotel gym and get rid of some of the fats you've acquired.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Go places with this card

ROBINSONS RETAIL GROUP AND Cebu Pacific have teamed up with Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC) to launch a credit card that offers a comprehensive rewards system like no other.

The Go! MasterCard has several components. The Go! Rewards program awards one point for every P200 spent using the card in locations where MasterCard is accepted, and double points if used at Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Appliances, Handyman Do It Best and Handyman Do It Center, Topshop and Topman, Dorothy Perkins, Wallis and Cebu Pacific ticket offices and in the Cebu Pacific website (cebupacificair.com).

The Go! Rewards points may then be exchanged for a Go! Cash Gift Card that can be used to purchase a variety of items from Robinsons retail establishments or to purchase a Cebu Pacific ticket.

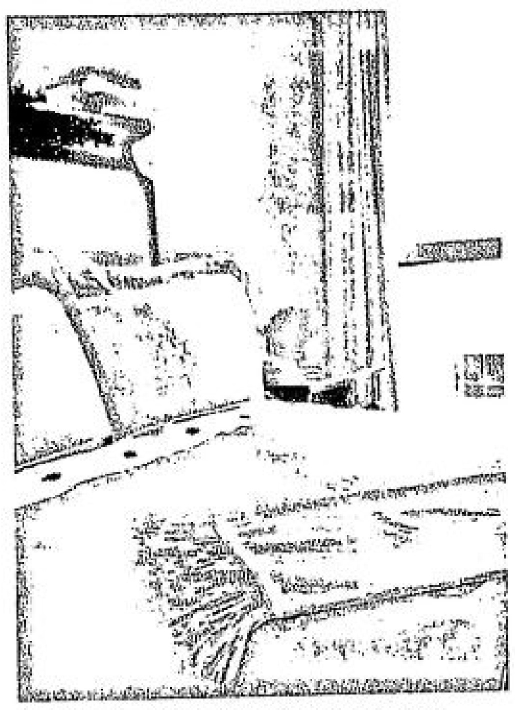
The Go! Cash Gift Card is a more fun and flexible way of choosing the rewards, rather than choosing from a limited catalogue offering. Frequent travelers will particularly appreciate the conversion of their Go! Points for payment of Cebu Pacific tickets. With enough points, they can even fly for free.

In addition to enjoying exclusive privileges, including advance sale alerts and special gifts from Robinsons Retail establishments, and getting the Go! Fares from Cebu Pacific, the Go! MasterCard holder is also entitled to a convenient installment program with low interest rates and flexible payment terms from numerous establishments.

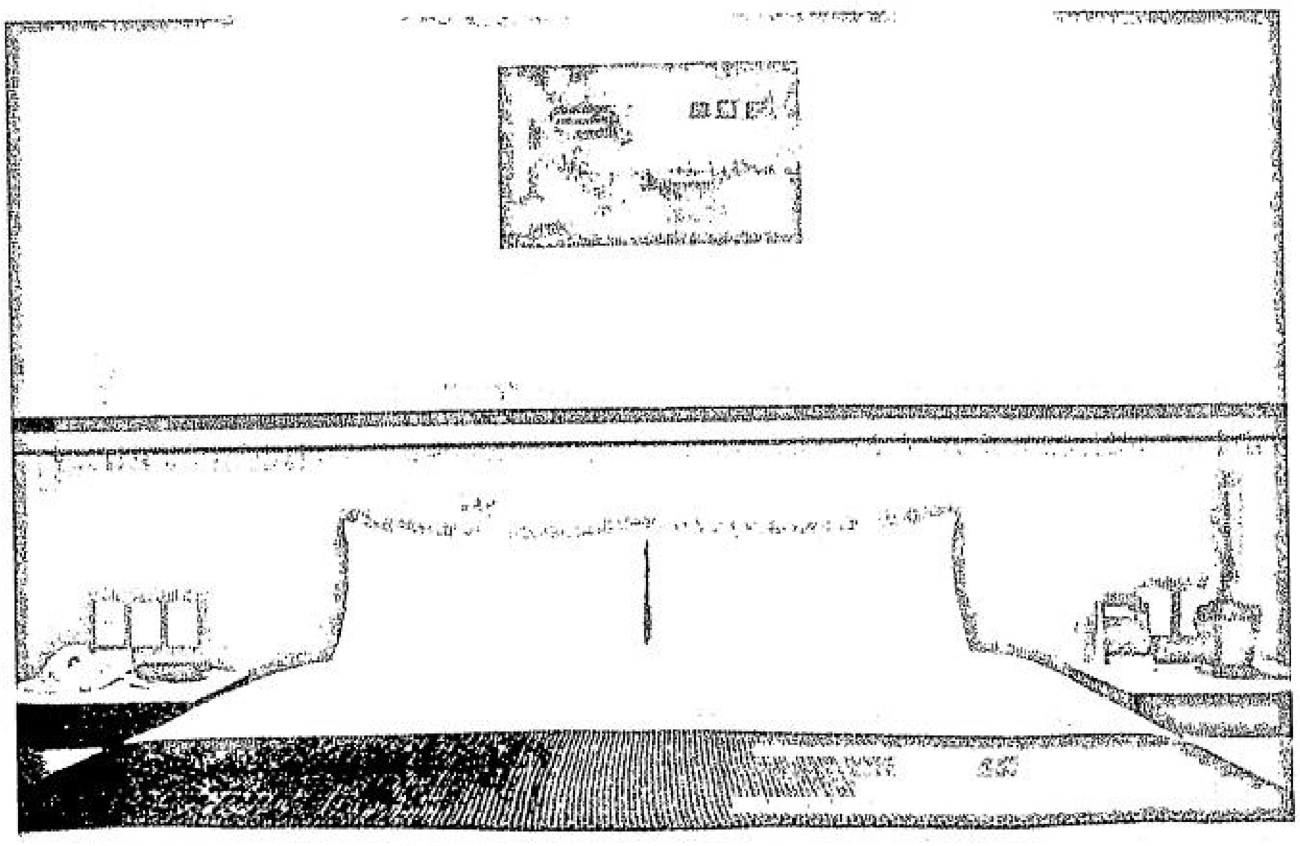
On top of this, transferring outstanding balances from other credit cards is more convenient as the Go! Balance Transfer program offers low interest rates as well.

The contract signing at Crowne Plaza had Lance Gokongwei, president and CEO of Robinsons and Cebu Pacific, and Anne Young, Metrobank Card Corporation president, doing the honors. Also present were Robinsons Group GM for Robinsons Retail Group Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Robinsons Department Store general manager Graham Coates, Robinsons Supermarket GM Jody Gadia, Handyman GM Johnson Go, Cebu Pacific GM Bong Mojica, MCC vice chair Anjie Dy-Buncio and MCC first vice president for marketing and sales Aloy Alday.

BONG Mojica, Cebu Pacific general manager and COO; Robina Gokongwei-Pe, group general manager of Robinsons Retail Group; Anne Young, Metrobank Card Corp. president; Anjie Dy-Buncio, Metrobank Credit Card Corp. vice chair; Lance Gokongwei, Robinsons Retail Group president and CEO; Graham Coates, general manager, department store, Robinsons Retail Group



CREATE beautiful Valentine memories at Discovery Suites



ROMANCE at Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila's deluxe room

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Sweet love nests

TAFT TOWER HOTEL offers special packages for Valentine's Day: dinner and deluxe room with breakfast for two for P2,500; dinner and corner suite with breakfast for two for P3,000; room only with breakfast at P900 per person; and twin share dinner at P500 per person. Call 3026418/6419.

HYATT HOTEL AND CASINO offers Weekend Package with exclusive access to Regency Club with breakfast for two. For couples, there's a Romancing Spa treatments.

CROWNE PLAZA presents a special Valentine room package Romancing at the Crowne, until Feb. 14. It includes an overnight stay in a deluxe room, buffet breakfast for two, romantic dinner at the Seven Corners and a bottle of wine. The first 15 couples to book will receive special gift packs from Suriya Spa. The package is at P6500++. Call 6337222.

DISCOVERY SUITES offers Suite Valentine/Private Valentine package that includes an overnight stay and dinner for two at the Serendipity Lounge or in the privacy of your suite. The package is at P5,500++ for a Junior Suite and My Private Valentine at P6,300++ for a One-Bedroom Suite. Call 6838222.

DISCOVERY COUNTRY SUITES in Tagaytay presents Romance Packages at P9,500++ for a deluxe suite with six-course dinner for two and a complimentary CD of love songs. Sumptuous Bliss, an exquisite six-course menu available at Restaurant Verbena for P2,800++ per couple. The room packages and special set menu are available until Feb. 14. Call 6838383 or (046)4134567.

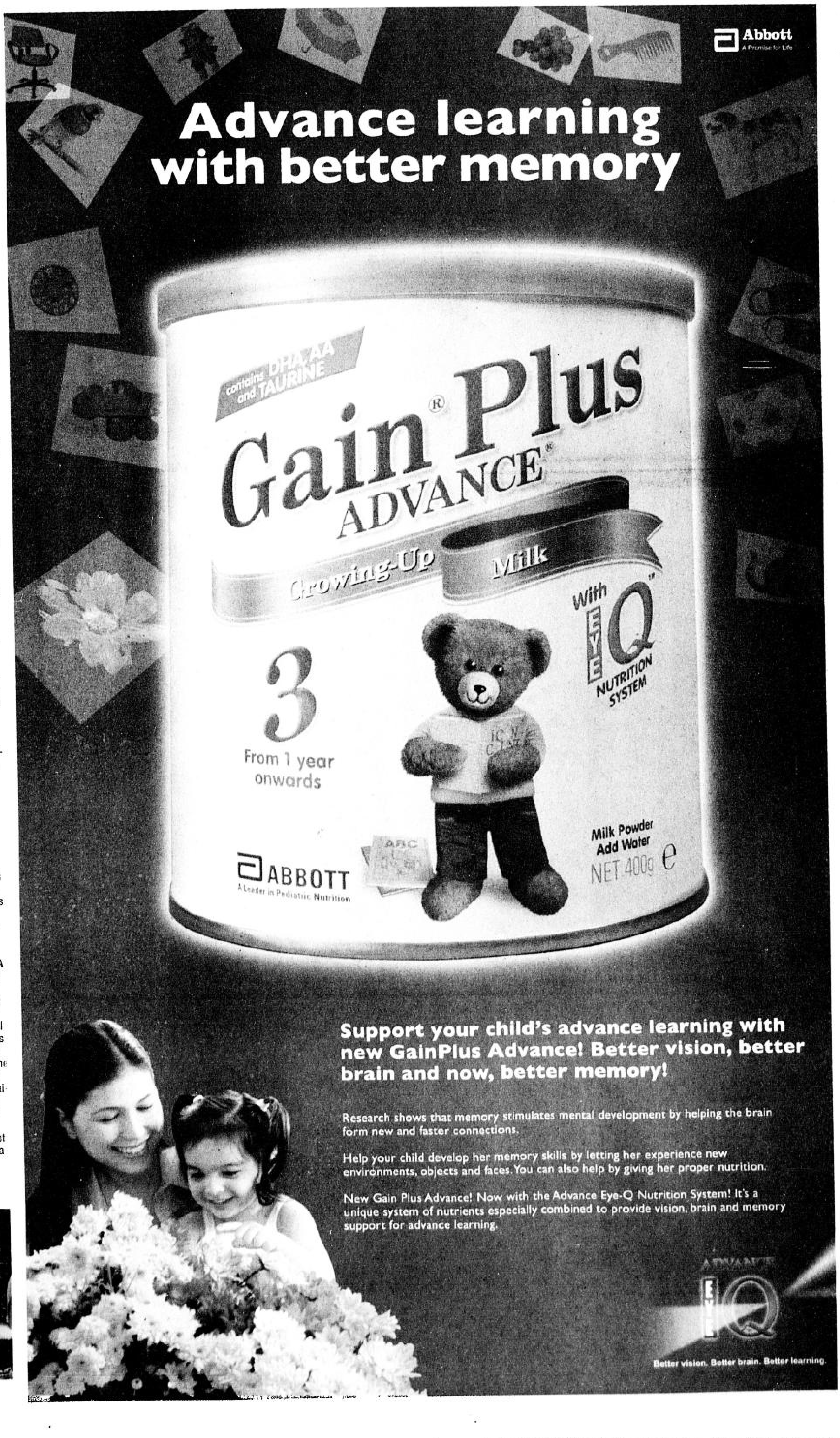
THE PENINSULA MANILA offers five-course dinner menu at Old Manila, for P3,500++ (adult) including a red rose and box of Peninsula chocolates for ladies, from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Lobby dinner buffet is also open from 6:30-10 p.m. There's a three-course dinner at Mi Piace, a la carte menu at Spices and dinner buffet at Nielsen's. Call 8872888 local 2205.

THE HERITAGE HOTEL offers Heritage Grand Buffet for P1,500 net per person with a complimentary glass of wine. Hearty specialties include Roast Beef with Prawn Stuffing, Lamb with Spinach in Phyllo Pastry, Classic Paella with Shellfish and Chicken, Grilled Tuna Steak with Corn Salsa, Steamed Chicken with Mushroom and Ham, among others. Dinner is from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Call 8548888.

THE TOWER CLUB Continental Restaurant offers six-course dinner inclusive of a glass of Moet & Chandon champagne per person, roses for ladies and heart-shaped three-layered (milk, dark and white) pralines made of pure Belgian chocolate. Call 8857085

SHANGRI-LA'S MACTAN ISLAND RESORT & SPA offers a Valentine's Day package. The presidential suite is at the ocean wing offering a view of the ocean and neighboring islands of Cebu. Elegantly furnished and decorated, it has a spacious master's bedroom, receiving area, separate dining hall with kitchen and a business desk. Butler service is available anytime of the day. A romantic dinner at the Paradise Island consists of Mango Champagne Mimosa, Salad of Arugula, Sweet Red Onion and Orange Segments with Strawberry Balsamic Vinaigrette, Parmesan and Sundried Tomato-Crusted Salmon with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Warm Chocolate Bread Pudding with Brandy Cream Sauce. The service includes champagne breakfast in bed and a stay in one of private villas at Chi Spa for a Yin Yang Couple's Massage. The Valentine package is available from Feb. 13-15. Call 2310288.

HAVE a romantic dinner at Hyatt



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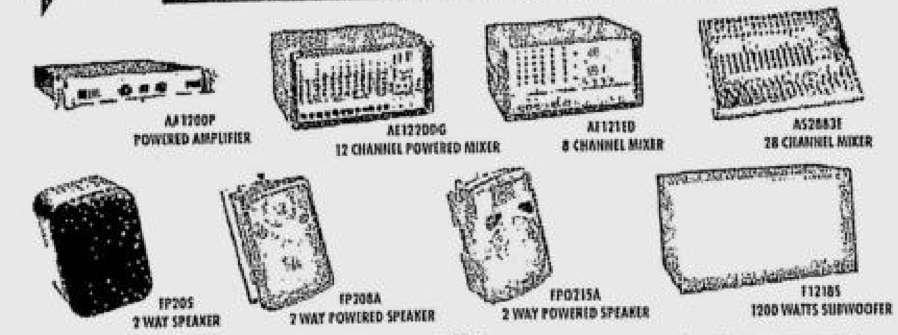

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Postscripts

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

Through this column, readers find a second chance at love and happiness

TWO COUPLES WERE brought together through letters to Emily's Post. For Valentine, we tell their happy endings:

Love lost and found

Dear Emily,

(Published Oct. 2, 2005)

A few years ago in Boston, while doing my post-graduate studies, I shared a condo with two very nice Filipinos, a man and a woman, who were cousins.... I thought (Lawrence, the man) was such a cool brother, a soulmate and a very good friend...I did not realize he had fallen for me....

Last month, I met the woman in Singapore and she gave me her cousin's (contact numbers) and e-mail address. He is now a head honcho of a big telecom company....

He had not married and she said he still often mentioned my name. She even joked that she believed I was the cause of her cousin's lonely eyes.

ARIANNE

(A few weeks later, Arianne sent this news:)

Dear Emily,

I didn't realize how popular your column was until now. Loren (the female cousin) read my letter and your advice and immediately showed it to Lar, as he is fondly called by family members.

Lar tracked me down...and had five dozens roses delivered (to me) with a note to meet him for lunch... We both came early because I guess we were too excited to finally meet. I won't bother you with details but we will be together this Christmas in Melbourne.... Lar made me promise I would never leave him again. And he promised he would make me happy and take care of me.

To love again

Dear Emily,

(Published March 20, 2005)

My husband and I separated...after I got fed up with all his indiscretions. He had affairs with my 17-year-old niece, the office receptionist and, later, the office manager. He even had flings with very young girls....

I have dual citizenship and got a divorce years ago....There's a dear friend who is so wonderful to me. He has a very good job abroad. We see each other often because of my constant traveling. We are in close touch by e-mail and phone calls.

He knows all my problems and I know his. When his wife left him seven years ago, I was the first person he called. When his sister died, he came to me directly from the airport.

I learned of his feelings for me when I read an e-mail he wrote to a (mutual) friend. The e-mail said basically that I'd been the woman for him—and that I'd crowded his marriage and his other relationships all these years. He is in love with me, but isn't sure what I feel about him....

I've been through so much pain that I don't want to be in love or married again.

LIN

(An unpublished private letter from the sister of Lin's suitor:)

Ms Emily,

(My baby brother Andrew) had loved (Lin) for so long and I believe you advised her to go for it, be with him. I am grateful because she did fly to Korea and they have been spending weekends together since.

Andrew is coming home in June and I want to gift them a two-week vacation in Amanpulo. Lin is a shy, unassuming lady with traditional Filipino values....Do you think she will accept my gift?

I know Andrew will be ecstatic but I don't want to offend Lin and lose her friendship. She is a close friend and ally, and our family loves her dearly. She does not discuss her new relationship with Andrew at all.

I'd love for her to be my sister-in-law but...she does not want to get married again. It is very clear though that she has fallen hard for our Andrew. She calls him, sends him things, worries about him and she just glows whenever his name is mentioned....I so want her to be committed to Andrew. They are beautiful together.

MI-RAE

(Lin's reaction to Mi-Rae's offer:)

Dear Ms Emily,

I thank you and Mi-Rae with all my heart. The Amanpulo gift sounds good but the thought of Andrew's caring family thinking of our happiness is truly wonderful.

...What can I say to Mi-Rae's obvious intentions? She's priceless and I love her dearly. Yes, I was with Andrew all this time.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0867, Series of 2006.

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BEING able to regularly call his wife in the US makes the distance more bearable for Rey de Dios and his family.

I just called to say I love you

Globe1 addresses the needs of Filipinos worldwide wanting to get in touch with home, quickly and cheaply

By Anne A. Jambora

FILIPINOS WHO SORELY MISS their loved ones and want to reach out this Valentine's Day will be happy to learn that, finally, there's a phone card that allows you to stretch that hard-earned peso when making IDD, NDD or local calls. With IDD calls as low as P4.50/minute and NDD at the rock-bottom rate of P1/minute.

Globe1, Innove Communication Inc.'s first PIN-based prepaid call card, addresses the growing OFW community by offering the country's lowest IDD rate. A P100 prepaid call card allows you to talk overseas for 22 minutes. For longer talk time, a P300 card is also available at all Globe outlets nationwide.

The 10 destinations included in the P4.50/minute IDD rate are Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

Clear lines

Rey de Dios, a 41-year-old resident of Cebu whose wife left for the United States five months ago to seek a job, swears by Globe1 prepaid call cards. A former user of a rival company's prepaid call cards, he says that since shifting to Globe1 he doesn't have to worry about choppy receptions and calls that are abruptly cut off due to poor connection. Redialing for reconnection is now thankfully a thing of the past.

"The lines are very clear it's like talking to somebody next door," De Dios says.

He adds that it now only takes him about 30 seconds to make a call, compared to two to three minutes with the previous company. Even better, De Dios says, Globe1 is cheaper so it permits him to allot a budget for IDD calls at P300-400 per week, placing calls to his wife every other day. When a friend suggested he use Globe1 last December, the overjoyed De Dios immediately consumed P600-700 worth of prepaid call cards on Christmas Day alone.

Cebu to California

Another Cebu-based businesswoman, Cebu Furniture Industries Foundation executive director Ruby Salutan, talks to her parents in Southern California at least an hour every month through Globe1. And, believe it or not, this executive asks from her parents the most typical of things children often request, such as a *balikbayan* box or an iPod.

"I can talk to my parents more frequently now since [Globe1] offers more value for my money," she says.

Today Salutan also uses Globe1 to call her many clients abroad, confirming and reconfirming business deals and organizing international fares. She used to place IDD calls through operator-assisted or direct-dial services, she says, which cost her about P20/minute, but has since shifted to Globe1 when it was introduced to the market December last year.

Salutan also says that with the prepaid call cards she can now manage her calls more swiftly, putting in calls for about 10 minutes per client. You're in control, she says, and the reception is very clear, "*parang* local call *lang*." Her previous telephone server, she says, often has "scratchy" signal.

Housewife and direct seller Dina Cuaca misses her eldest daughter Laviña who left home six months ago to work in a manufacturing industry in Taiwan. Together with her self-employed photographer husband, she tries as hard as she can to make both ends meet to support two other children still under their care.

Cuaca used to talk to her daughter through webcam at the neighborhood Internet café. This mother only communicates with Laviña on her day off for worry of waking up her roommates. Laviña works the graveyard shift, says Cuaco, who would rather let her daughter get a much-needed morning's rest than interrupt it with a call.

"*Mas nakakatipid,*" says Cuaca, who now calls her daughter once a week. "*Mas maganda pa rin makarinig ng tinig ng anak mo sa malayo.*"

Make calls from any post- or prepaid Globelines landline and payphone, Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile to any landline or mobile carrier here and abroad. Enjoy the lowest IDD rate from any Globelines landline or payphone. The regular IDD rate of $0.40 applies to calls made through cell phones and those dispatched to countries not included in the list.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

RUBY Salutan calls her parents in the US.

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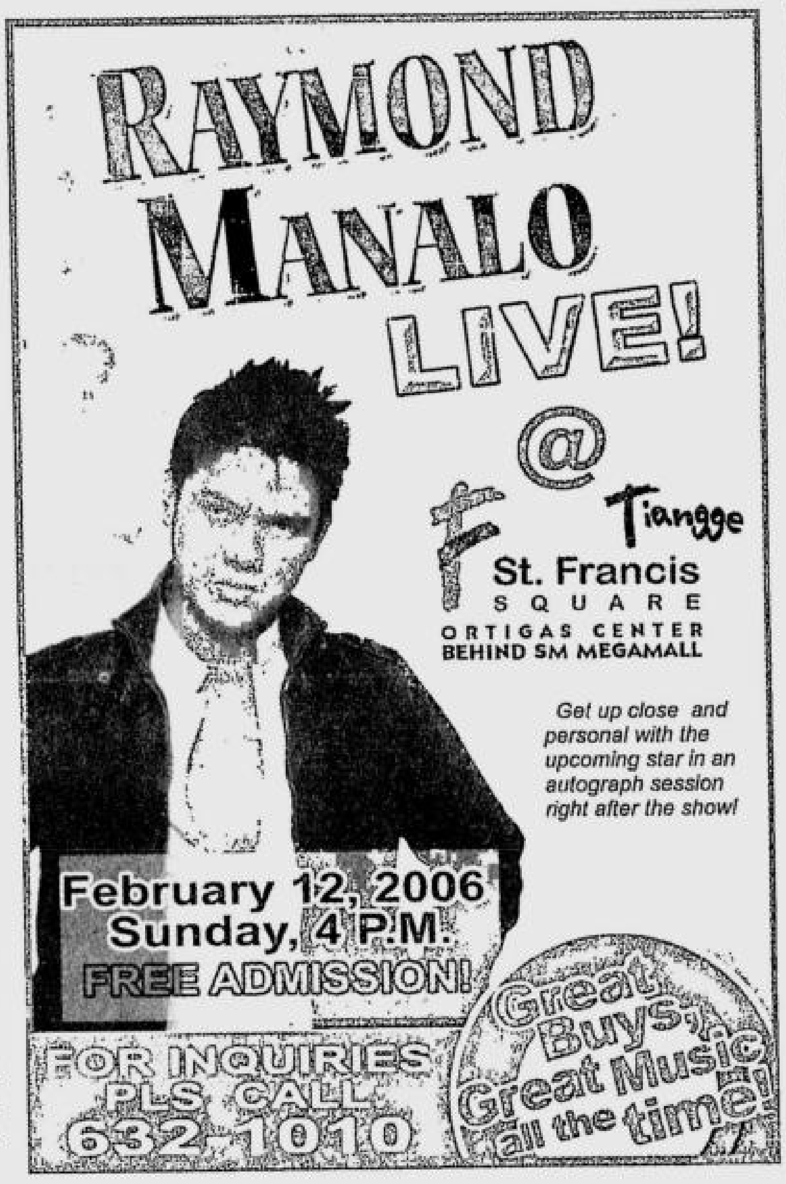

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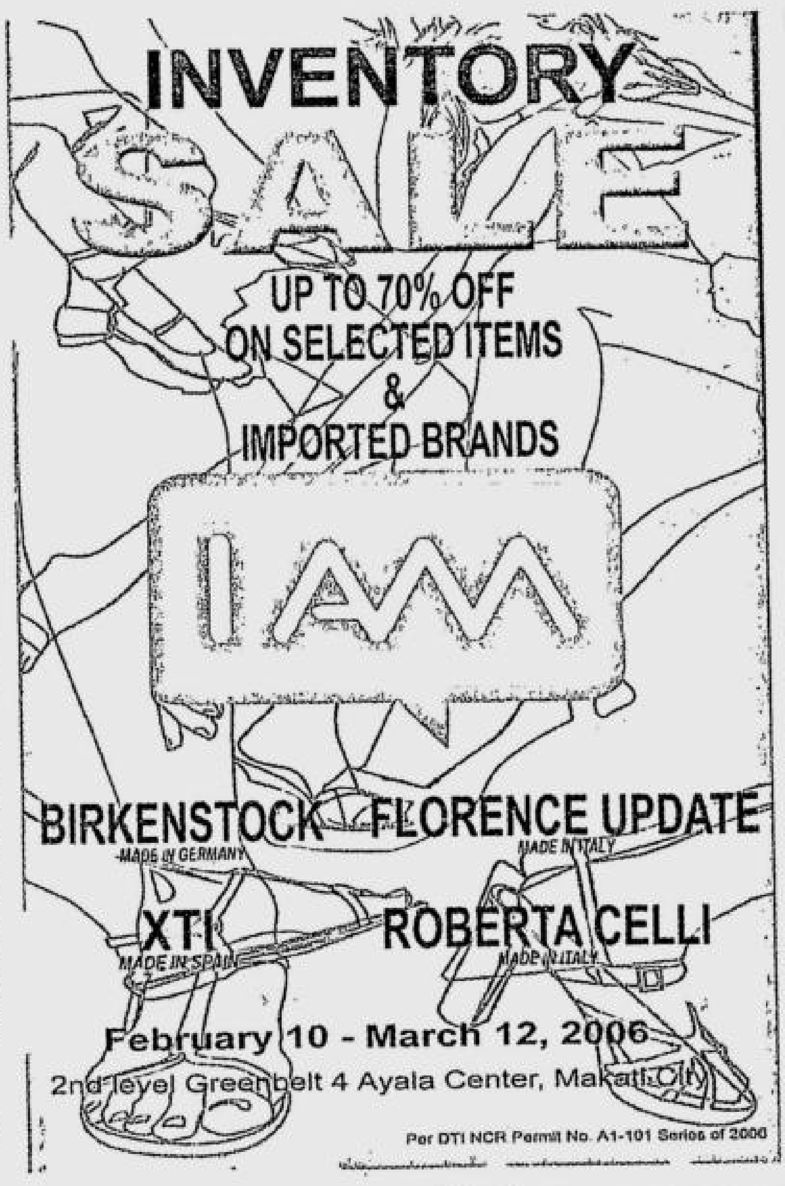

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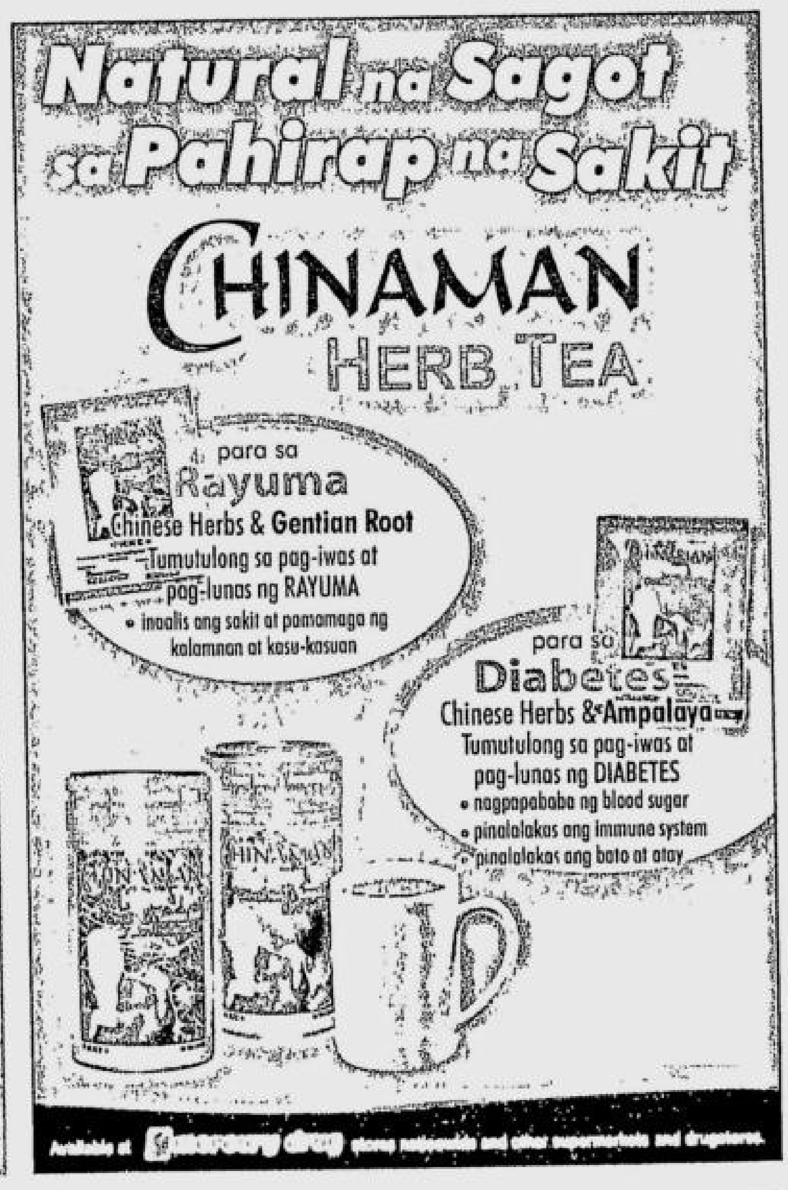

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PACLARIN-PEPITO NUPTIALS

December wedding caps 10-year romance

ONE SPECIAL DAY IN DECEMBER, Jelen Paclarin and José Antonio Pepito pledged to love one another in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad.

It was the culmination of 10 years of courtship and romance.

The bride is the daughter of Jaime and Belen Paclarin while the groom is the son of José and Ma. Nieves Pepito.

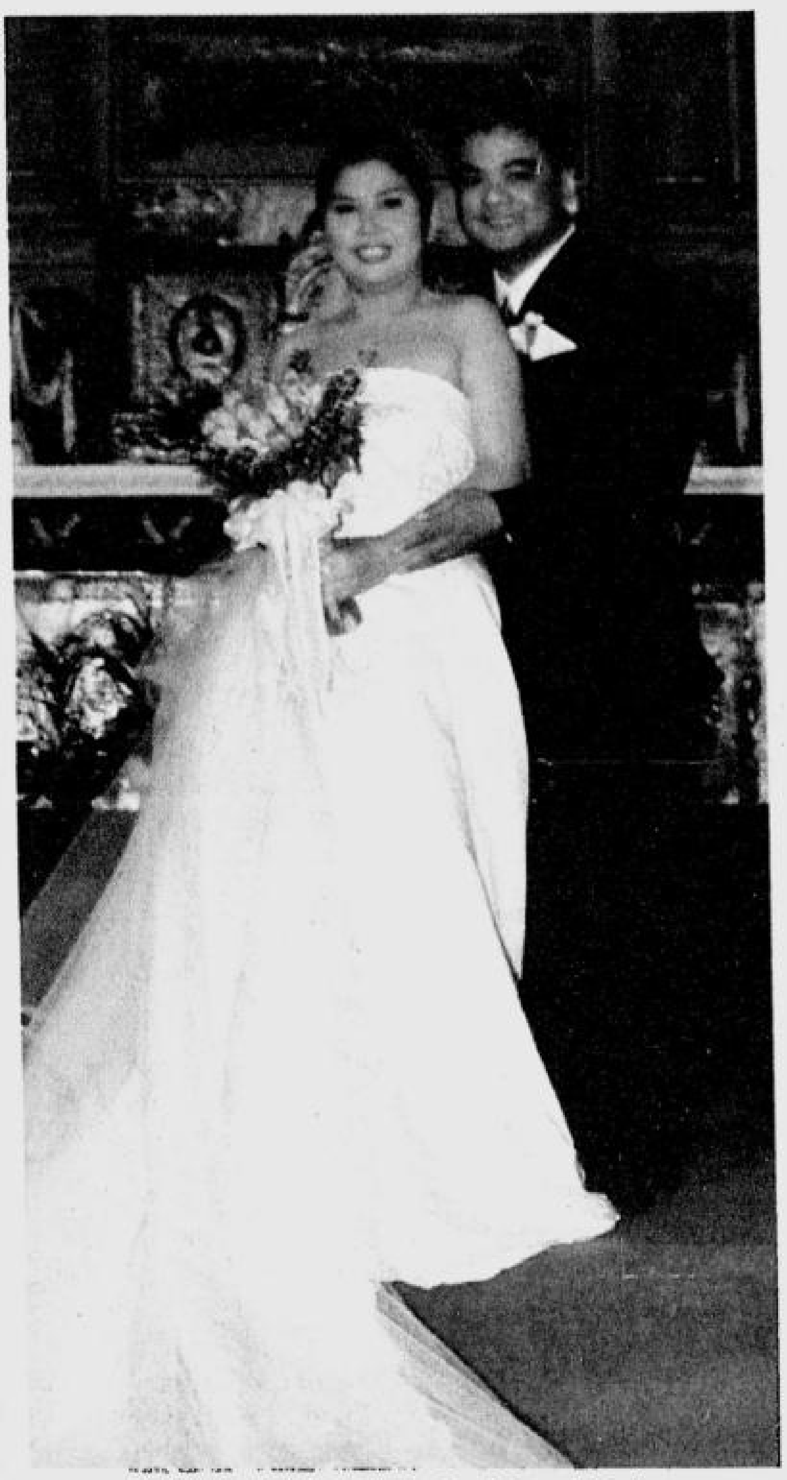
The wedding was held at San Agustin Church. Principal sponsors were Justice Zenaida Elepaño, professor Maureen Pagaduan, Edith Bondoc, Milagros Leal, Pasciencia Canzana, Ana Maria Balayon, Romeo Canzana, lawyer Francisco Paredes, Col. Rodolfo Silva, lawyer Manuel Satuito, lawyer Francisco Ancheta Jr. and engineer Samuel Cruz.

A dinner reception catered by Josiah's Catering Inc. was held at the Coconut Palace in Cultural Center of the Philippines complex on Roxas Boulevard. JJS Entertainment provided the music for the church ceremony and the reception, including the couple's first dance.

A three-tiered fondant cake in the wedding motif of hot pink and lime green, topped by miniatures of a couple reading books, was made by Sugar Box.

Dragon Fireworks arranged a fireworks display to coincide with the couple's first dance.

The couple spent their first night as husband and wife at the Manila Diamond Hotel.



NEWLYWEDS Jelen (nee Paclarin) and José Antonio Pepito

Covenant of love with thrice admirable queen

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WHEN FR. JOSEPH KENTENICH founded the Schoenstatt Movement in 1914, he intended it to be a devotion to the Mother Thrice Admirable Queen of Schoenstatt.

It was a "Covenant of Love" with the Blessed Mother by the members of the Marian Sodality in the Chapel of St. Michael in Schoenstatt, Valender, Germany (accessible by train from Cologne).

Father Kentenich, who consecrated himself to Mary when he was 9 years old, encouraged the boys in the Sodality to work at being holy. The boys would bring their "contributions" of sacrifices to her little shrine, so that she might work miracles of grace in men's hearts and thus renew the world.

I first heard about Father Kentenich from international concert pianist Leonor Kilayko who lived in Cologne for 17 years. Every Sept. 15, she would take the train to Valender to visit the tomb of Fr. Kentenich who died on Sept. 15, 1968.

Then, in the reception of the Order of Malta in the parish hall of Santuario de San Antonio, I met Christine Maliwat-Golez whose prayers were answered by the Mother Thrice Admirable Queen of Schoenstatt. Tita Pat Margolles, whose friend Carmen Carag recovered from a stroke by praying to the Virgin, gave her a novena.

Madonna

Mary Thrice Admirable is a title adopted in 1915 by future members of the Schoenstatt Movement. It serves as name and customary advocation of the Schoenstatt Madonna. She is venerated as "Mother thrice admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt."

The title is multi-valued: Mother of God, Mother of Christ, Mother of all human beings; she is admirable in faith, hope and charity; she was virgin before, in and after the birth of Christ; Child of the Father, Mother of the Son, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, etc.

The title has idiomatic meaning, expressing the unique character of Mary according to the words used by Anselm of Canterbury—"admirably unique and uniquely admirable" (Oratio 52, PL 158, 955). Maybe the best way to explain "thrice admirable" is to say that Mary escapes human understanding and explanation.

Philippine shrine

The first shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in the Philippines was blessed in 2003 by Ricardo Cardinal Vidal with Auxiliary Bishop Julio Cortes officiating in the Eucharistic Benediction. Some 2,000 people gathered at the 3.8-hectare hill in Lawaan III in Talisay, Cebu. Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary from the United States and Australia came for the blessing.

Our Lady's Covenant Day is Oct. 18 but, on Valentine's Day, a devotee can make a covenant with her.

Tagaytay chapel

Bernardo and Estelita Sajorda built a chapel for Mary Queen of Schoenstatt beside their Little Angels Orphanage on Bonifacio St. in Tagaytay. It can be reached by taking the Aguinaldo Highway and turning right on Bonifacio Street.

Just how they were able to build an exact replica of the chapel in Schoenstatt, Germany could only be a miracle. Our Lady wanted it that way.

Bernardo happened to be a first cousin of Sister Angelita Pedro of the Sisters of Schoenstatt in Wisconsin, US. Sister Angelita is the daughter of Mary Abarro Pedro, sister of Bernardo's mother, Teresa Abarro Sajorda.

Sister Angelita gave Bernardo an 8" x 10" color photograph of the Mother Thrice Admirable, which he enthroned in the chapel. She also gave one to her mother who built a chapel in Laoag City.

Christina Golez and friends had *estampita* prayers printed. Those who want free copies can write to me at PO Box 2050, Manila. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. You can have the *estampitas* scanned to make a 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" image and frame it. Put it on your altar and make your home a shrine of Our Lady under this title.

Shrine's anniversary

The National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Dao Street, Makati will mark its 30th anniversary with a Thanksgiving Mass at noon, Feb. 14, to be officiated by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales.

Past rectors of the shrine are Msgr. Nico Bautista; Fr. Max Ocampo, who is celebrating his 25th year in the shrine; Bishop Tom Yalung; Msgr. Jose Clemente; and Fr. Prex Fajardo, who is on a sabbatical. Msgr.. Clem is now in charge.

Centennial

The Ilocos Norte High School in Laoag City will mark its centennial Feb. 10-16, during the town fiesta. Lulu Raval-Fong is here from Los Angeles to join members of her Class '64.

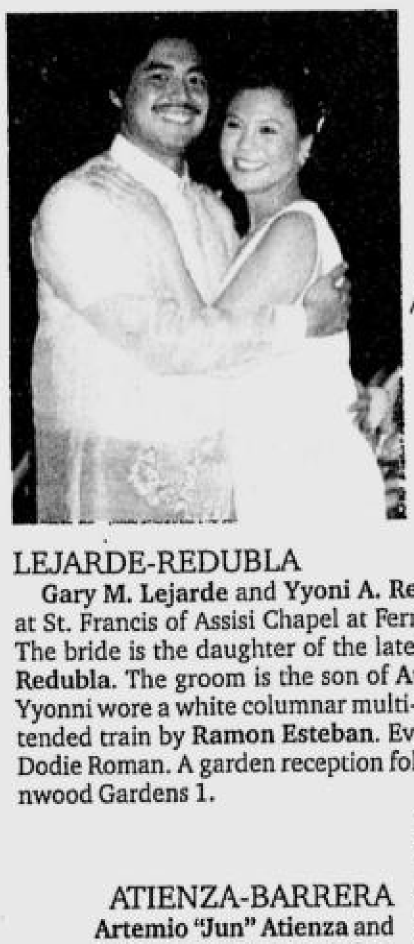
Valentine gift

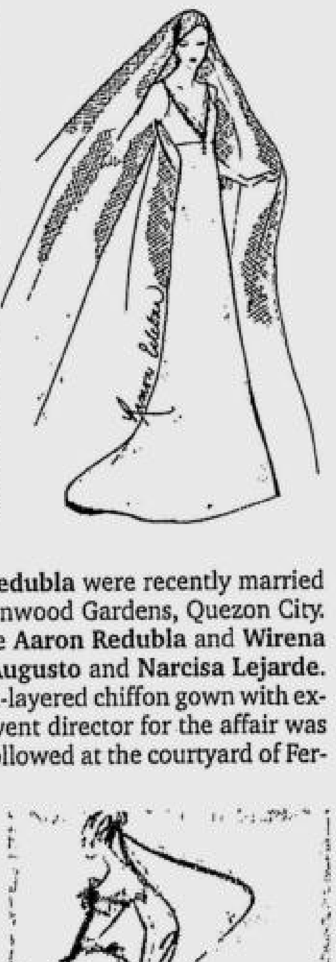
Bernadette Yap suggests a Valentine gift that will be a day-to-day reminder that the Lord loves us. Call 9326339 or text 0916-8215982. Happy Valentine to all readers!

Pro-Life Philippines is holding a Human Chain for Life dialogue with pro-life representatives on Feb. 15, a training seminar on post-abortion healing on Feb, 17 and prayer conference on Feb. 18. Call 4217147 or 911291l or visit www.prolife.org.ph

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



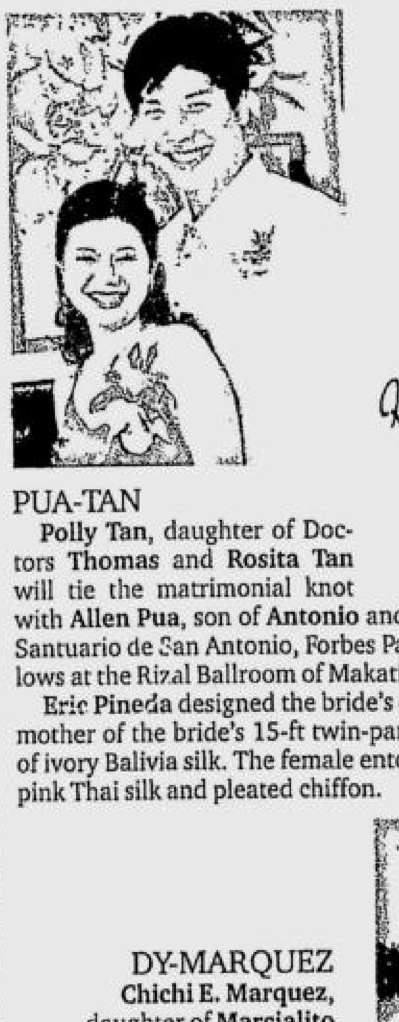


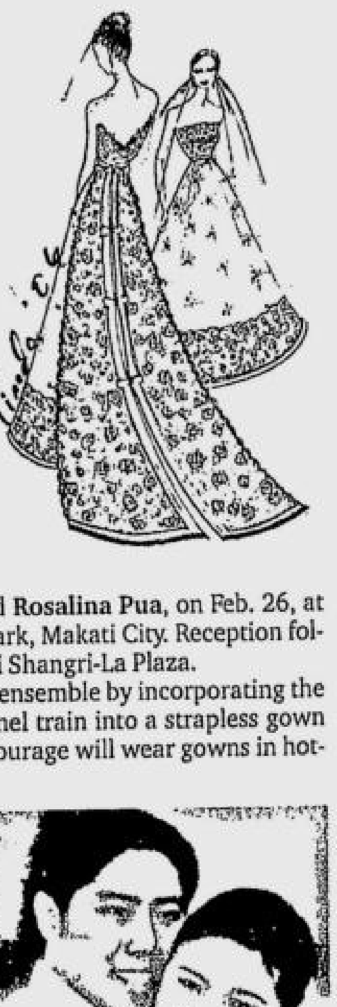
LEJARDE-REDUBLA

Gary M. Lejarde and **Yyoni A. Redubla** were recently married at St. Francis of Assisi Chapel at Fernwood Gardens, Quezon City. The bride is the daughter of the late **Aaron Redubla** and **Wirena Redubla**. The groom is the son of **Augusto** and **Narcisa Lejarde**. Yyonni wore a white columnar multi-layered chiffon gown with extended train by **Ramon Esteban**. Event director for the affair was Dodie Roman. A garden reception followed at the courtyard of Fernwood Gardens 1.

DEL POSO-MARCELINO

Dr. **William E. del Poso**, son of **Remigio G. del Poso Sr.** and **Lourdes del Poso**, will wed Dr. **Dorothy P. Marcelino**, daughter of Dr. **Dominador E. Marcelino**, and **Linda Marcelino**, on Feb. 25, at the Church of the Risen Lord, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Reception will follow at Gazebo Royale, Visayas Ave., QC.





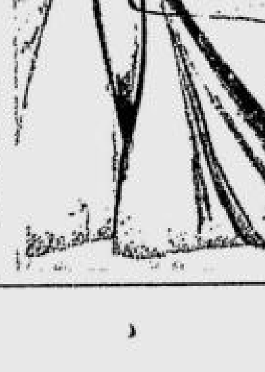
PUA-TAN

Polly Tan, daughter of Doctors **Thomas** and **Rosita Tan** will tie the matrimonial knot with **Allen Pua**, son of **Antonio** and **Rosalina Pua**, on Feb. 26, at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Reception follows at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Plaza.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's ensemble by incorporating the mother of the bride's 15-ft twin-panel train into a strapless gown of ivory Balivia silk. The female entourage will wear gowns in hot-pink Thai silk and pleated chiffon.

ATIENZA-BARRERA

Artemio "Jun" Atienza and **Joie Barrera** will be married on Feb. 18, 6 p.m., at the Mt. Carmel Church. The bride will wear a **Ricci Lizaso** creation of ecru duchess satin with embellishments of horsehair at the neckline. The bride is the daughter of **Alejandrino** and **Pacita Barrerra** while the groom is the son of **Artemio Sr.** and **Benedicta Atienza**.



SEMERA-GONZALES

Melvin S. Semera, son of engineer **Bienvenido** and **Emelita Semera**, and **Roselyn T. Gonzales**, daughter of **Francisco** and **Erlinda Gonzales**, recently exchanged wedding vows at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Bishop **Teodoro Bacani Jr.** officiated the wedding, together with Fr. **Eric Castro**, Fr. **Aldrin Lopez**, Fr. **Ronald Macale** and Fr. **Clod Bagabaldo**. **Jackie Rivera** designed the bride's gown. Reception was at Pope John Paul II Youth Center.

DY-MARQUEZ

Chichi E. Marquez, daughter of **Marcialito Marquez** and the late **Carmencita Ebarle**, recently married **Jeffry Dy**, son of **Benjamin Dy** and Mayor **Jocella Dy**, at The Shrine of Jesus. Reception followed at the Coconut Palace.

The right time for a romantic comedy

GOINGS ON

LA CONSOLACION COLLEGE MANILA AND Dramatis Personae present William Shakespeare's romantic comedy "Midsummer Night's Dream," 6 p.m., Feb. 13-14, at La Consolacion College Manila, Mendiola. Tickets are available at the gate. Call the LCCM Office of Student Affairs at 3130513 or 7360235.

SWIMWEAR EXPO. The first and only exposition of the latest in intimate and swimwear fashion unfolds on Feb. 18 at the Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Garden, Makati City. "Intima Manila: A Swimwear and Lingerie Event" officially opens at 10 a.m. The event will be highlighted by fashion show featuring some of the country's top models to be directed by Jackie Aquino. Interested parties may log on to http://www.yehey.com/intima or http://www.ClicktheCity.com, or call 6356727 or 0917-858-2342; 6558136 or 0917-8125057; and 6872015 or 0917-8067016.

WORKSHOPS. Nego-skwela and the Star Group of Malls offer free livelihood and cottage industry workshops: *pastillas*-making, 3 p.m., Feb. 11, G/F atrium of Starmall, Las Piñas City; traditional Thai massage, Feb. 25, at 2/L, Activity Area, Starmall Edsa. Call 7181886 or 8503845.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE. The Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines-Manila, with C.H.I.L.D. Foundation, Inc., will conduct its 39th General Postgraduate Course, "Diseases, Drugs, Decisions," Feb. 16-17, at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. Call 5240892 or 5218450 loc. 2101 or 2107.

CHAMPIONSHIP. The World Muaythai Federation Philippines (WMF-Phils) will hold the 2006 National Muaythai Championship on March 4. All amateur muaythai associations or martial arts clubs are invited. Interested parties should submit club/team profiles, list of participants on or before Feb. 22. Entries must be submitted to WMF-Phils offices at Unit 7-B, Vernida I Bldg., 120 Amorsolo St., Legazpi Village, Makati City, tel./fax 8929176; and JC-159 Beatriz Emporium, La Trinidad, Benguet. Call (074) 4218361, 0916-2289131, 0920-2927588. E-mail wmf.phils@gmail.com

HOMECOMING. The University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Engineering Class 1981, silver jubilarian and host, will hold its 2006 pre-centennial alumni homecoming 6 p.m., Feb. 18, at the Engineering Sports Complex. The homecoming is part of the 99th Foundation Anniversary celebration of the oldest engineering school in the Philippines. For tickets, call 7314041, 5339916, 7313001 or 0919-4462931.

HOMECOMING. The University of Perpetual Help Dalta in Las Piñas will hold its Grand Alumni homecoming 6 p.m.,Feb. 25, at the UPHD Auditorium. Call 8710639 loc. 181, 157or 128, and 0920-3396787.

FINALS. Some 30 contestants will vie for the title Mr. & Ms. Sexy Body 2006 at 9 p.m., Feb. 18, at The Brick Road, East Wing Open Carpark, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Marcos Highway cor. Felix Ave., Cainta, Rizal. Over P40,000 worth of cash, gift certificates and other prizes await winners. Call 6815401 loc. 109.

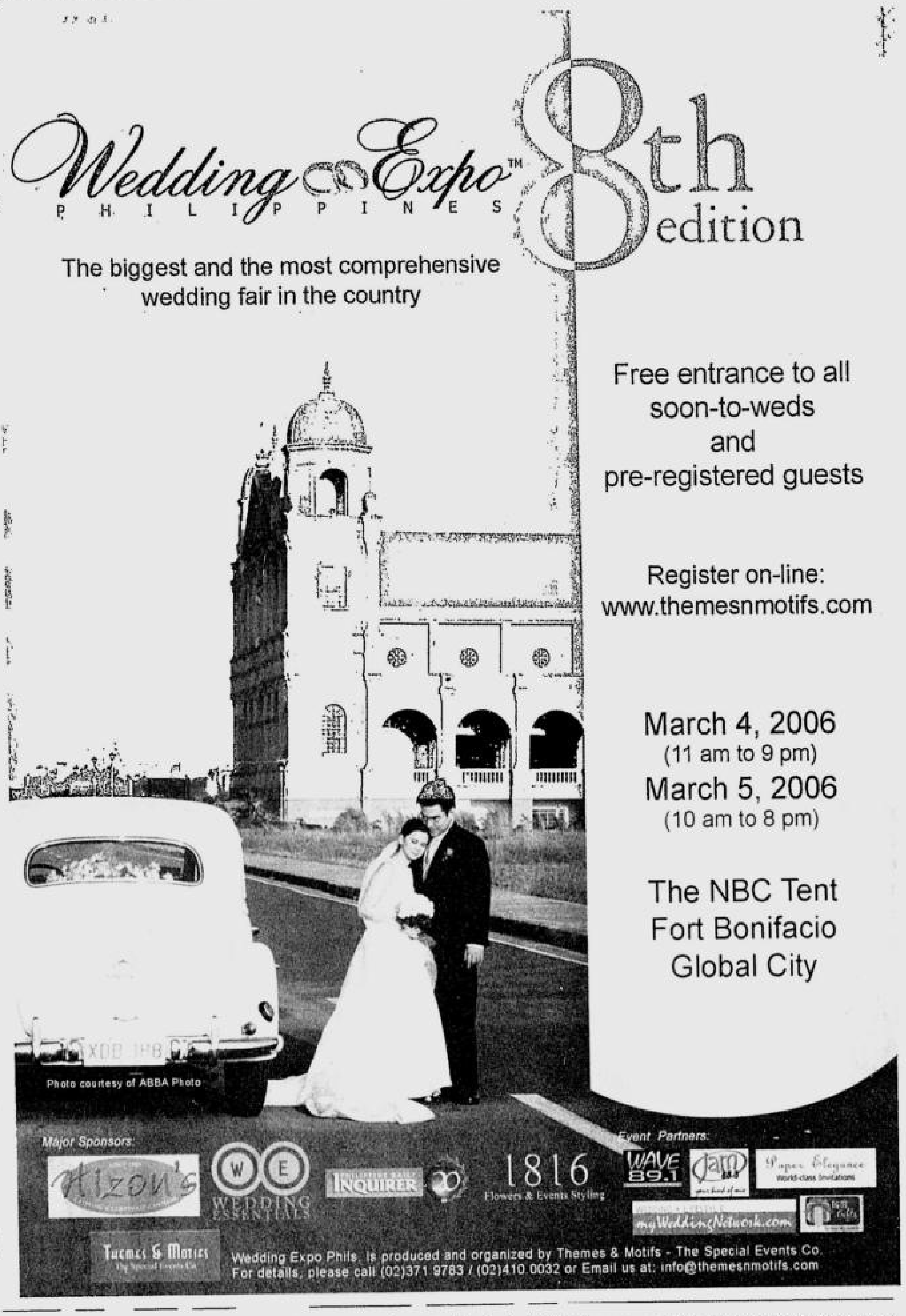
MAKEOVER. Visit "Weddings and Debuts Fair 2006," Feb. 17-19, at SM Megatrade Hall, and get an instant hair makeover by Hairwear Creative Hair Systems. Hairwear offers an entire range of hair care treatments, services and products that include nonsurgical hair replacement, hair enhancements, hair and scalp therapy. The shop is at G/F, Francisco Bldg., Timog Avenue, QC. Call 4145957 or 3762427.

MARKET BAZAAR. "Go Green Market and Bazaar" will be held 6 a.m.-11 p.m., Feb. 25-26, at SM Megamall A grounds. The event is sponsored by Fiesta Pacific Tours and Events Inc. and Alternative Lyfstyle Marketing & Consultancy (AlterMktg). The event will feature organic food, eco-friendly products and others. Call 6317520/21, 6555674, 0919-2419131 and 0921-9023525.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING. The Pasay City High School Alumni Association is organizing a grand alumni homecoming 8 a.m.-5 p.m., March 18, at the PCHS, Pasadena cor. F.B. Harrison Sts., Pasay. Call 9319916, 4549143, 8432029 and 9511814.

BAR TOUR. Tabasco, the world-renowned pepper sauce, concludes its eight-leg bar tour, "Yee Haw!!! Burn Survivor." Catch the last two legs of the bar tour at Makati's Absinth, Bistro 110, Il Ponticello, Quisine and Cable Car Feb. 10 and 24. Call 9205291.

PROMO. Enjoy great discounts when vacationing in Baguio City with Digitel's Digikard and DGMax Prepaid Cards' "Tawag-Lakbay Diskwento" promo available until May 15. The promo is being offered in cooperation with the Baguio Hotel Association, Inc. (BAHAI). Every special edition BAHAI Digikard (in P100 and P300 denominations) and DGMax (in P50 and P100 denominations) prepaid card entitles holder to discounts from BAHAI member establishments of up to 30 percent on accommodations, food, beverage and services.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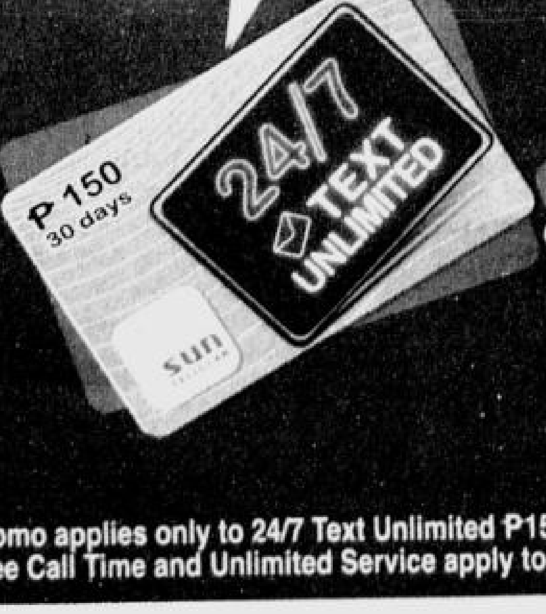
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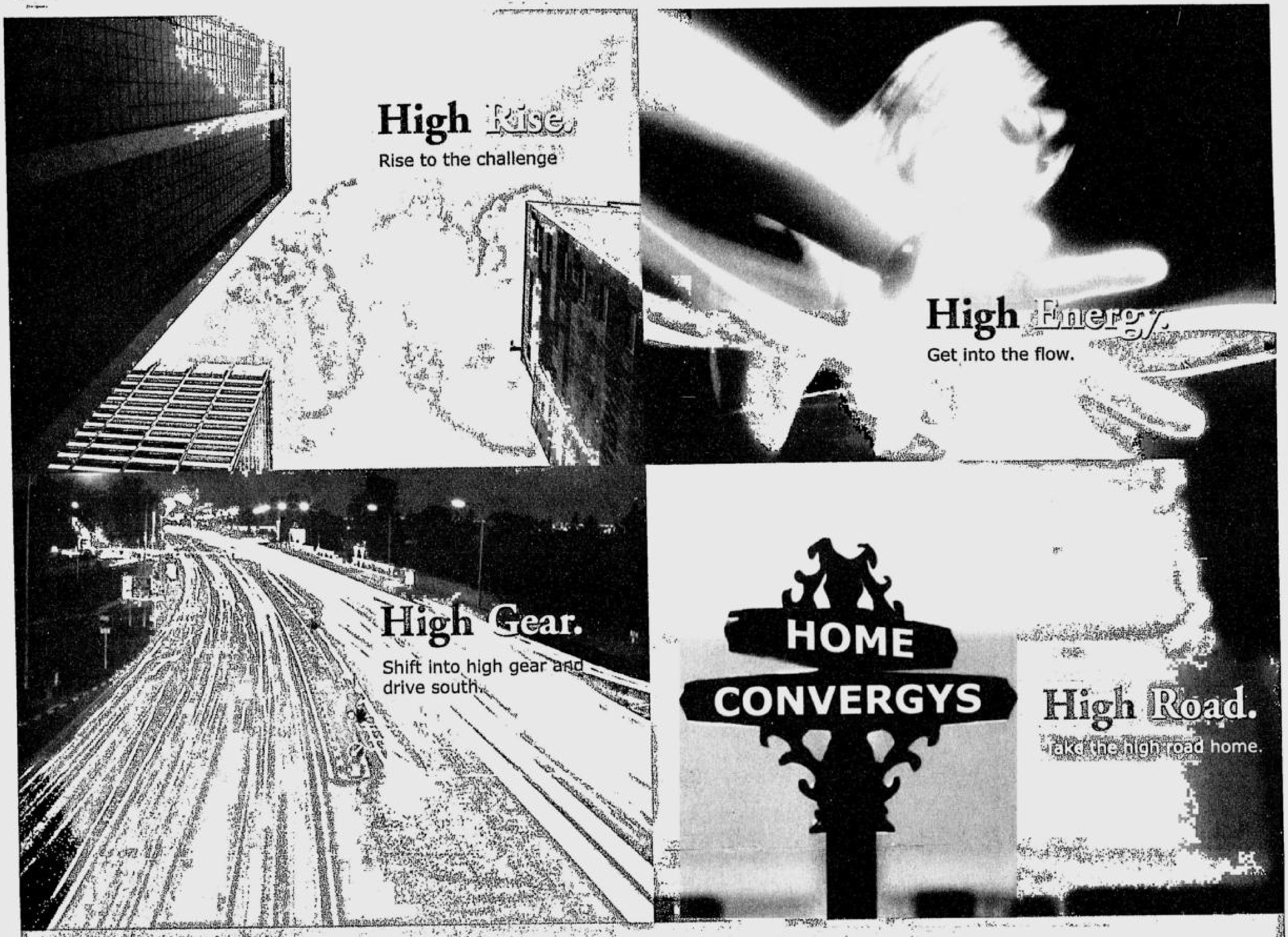

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This key role is part of a team launching world-class electronic banking channels into Cambodia.

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- Managing customer data on electronic systems
- Handling internal and external customers with electronic banking queries
- In charge of trouble shooting systems
- Assisting the programming and testing of terminal' equipment (ATM & POS)
- Minimizing user downtime from EBS – related issues

Skills/ Experience

- Previous experiences with ATM setting up.
- Demonstrated working knowledge of support for electronic banking channels (ATM, POS and Internet).
- Degree holder, major in Banking or in related fields
- Good knowledge of Banking procedures, processes and policies.
- Strong English communication, negotiation and problem solving skills.
- Strong project management ability to plan and coordinate activity.

A competitive remuneration package commensurate with experience and ability will be offered to the successful candidate. Please send your detailed resume with current and expected salary to:

Interested applicants meeting the above requirements should submit their CV along with a cover letter, by email to: leangr@anz.com

Applications must be submitted no later than 17th February 2006. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interview.

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- Graduate of Psychology and Behavioral Science Course.
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- Possessed good people skills.
- At least 2 years work experience.
- Female, not more than 28 years old.
- Detailed and organized.

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- Atleast 1 years experince in this field

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- 2-3 years program management experience
- Excellent client interface and negotiation skills
- Has the ability to analyze daily results and make recommendations to the client on program enhancements, changes in direction and adjunct service offerings
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- Can develop recommendations of service offerings to clients to solve problems
- Can serve as a subject-matter-expert in pre-sales meetings/presentations/site visits in order to assist Sales in closing new business

SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGER
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Responsible for decisions concerning operational strategies and tactics as well as addressing investments concerns in the program and building relationships with client.

- Has at least 2-3 years solid managerial experience in a call center setting
- Ability to guide individuals toward goal achievement using negotiation, teamwork/collaboration, motivation and staff development skills including the ability to act as a role model within the organization.
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PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
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The Private Sector Mobilization in Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Workplace Component Specialist

Background:

PRISM supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The PRISM project is widely dispersed, with a head office in Manila, and three regional offices for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao in Manila, Cebu, and Davao, respectively. Family planning coordinators (FPCs) work remotely in strategically selected provinces. In the case of PRISM's workplace initiatives component, the participatory strategy design led by the Senior Component Director for workplace initiatives at the head office must be communicated effectively and quickly to the remote regional operations staff. As the FPCs are not necessarily technical experts in the field of FP workplace programs, they must be mentored and guided in the implementation of the workplace strategy. For this purpose, a workplace component specialist will be fielded in each of the regional offices.

General Tasks:

Reporting to the regional director, the workplace component specialist will provide technical assistance to the operations team in the region on matters of workplace initiatives. S/he will ensure that workplace strategies are understood and implemented well by the field personnel by providing regular and timely feedback to the Regional Operations Manager, the Regional Director and the Senior Component Director for workplace initiatives. S/he will also assist the Family Planning Coordinators in the area in implementing the Workplace Component strategic plan effectively. S/he will also ensure the effective implementation of the grants program and the M&E reporting system through regular liaison with partners and staff in the region.

Specific Tasks:

The workplace component specialist will:

A. Provide technical assistance to regional operations personnel on workplace initiatives.
   1. Ensure that Family Planning Coordinators (FPC) understand the Workplace component strategic plan through regular consultative meetings with them and the Regional Directors;
   2. Assist, mentor, and guide the FPCs in liaising with local workplace partners to provide the latter information about accessing grants from PRISM;
   3. Conduct regular field visits with the FPCs to monitor implementation of workplace strategies and provide assistance as may be appropriate;
   4. Gather feedback from the FPCs and partner associations about matters that may affect the attainment of the goals set for the Workplace Initiatives component in the region;
   5. Assist the FPCs in organizing activities that will contribute to the achievement of the component goals in the region.

B. Provides feedback to the Senior Component Director for Workplace Initiatives (SCD-WP).
   1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Workplace Initiatives strategies being implemented in the field regional offices;
   2. Submit reports to the Regional Director, copy the Regional Manager and SCD-WP on a regular basis as may be agreed upon;
   3. Recommend strategies and action plans to the Regional Director and the SCD-WP that will result in the fast attainment of the regional goals for Workplace Initiatives;

C. Ensure effective implementation of the grants program for Workplace Initiatives component.
   1. Identify potential partners in the region to include in the grants program of PRISM;
   2. Provide information to local partners about the grants program that will result in their submission of proposals for grants;
   3. Identify training needs of local partners pertaining to the grants program and to the implementation of workplace FP program;
   4. Monitor and provide assistance to local partners in the implementation of the grants program;
   5. Provide regular feedback to the Regional Director about the status of the grants program, copy furnished to SCD-WP, Regional Operations Manager, Field Support Manager and the Senior Grants Manager.
   6. Verify and sign off on technical completion of deliverables contained in grant agreements, as claimed and invoiced by grantees.

Supervision:

The Workplace Component Specialist reports to the Regional Director. S/he will have coordinative functions with the Senior Component Director- Workplace on technical matters

Qualifications:

- College graduate with a degree in Business Administration, Development Studies or any of its equivalent Preferably with post graduate degree in business, management or other related fields;
- Minimum five years of management experience, dealing with private business firms and associations and corporate foundations;
- Has strong network with business organizations, trade associations and labor groups;
- Experience in family planning program is a must. Experience in family planning in the workplace is preferable;
- Excellent analytical, problem-solving and planning skills required
- Effective communication skills in English and in the local dialect are a must,
- Must have strong ability to prioritize and organize workloads and handle multiple tasks simultaneously and effectively;
- Must be able to work in a team environment;
- Preferably a local resident in the area of deployment;
- Proficient in MS Office WORD, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook; and,
- Willing to travel in strategic intervention areas in Mindanao.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 17th of February 2006. Please indicate the subject of your email as "Position Code: WCSM"

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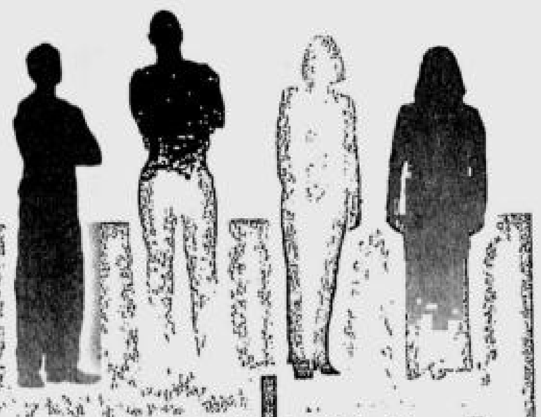

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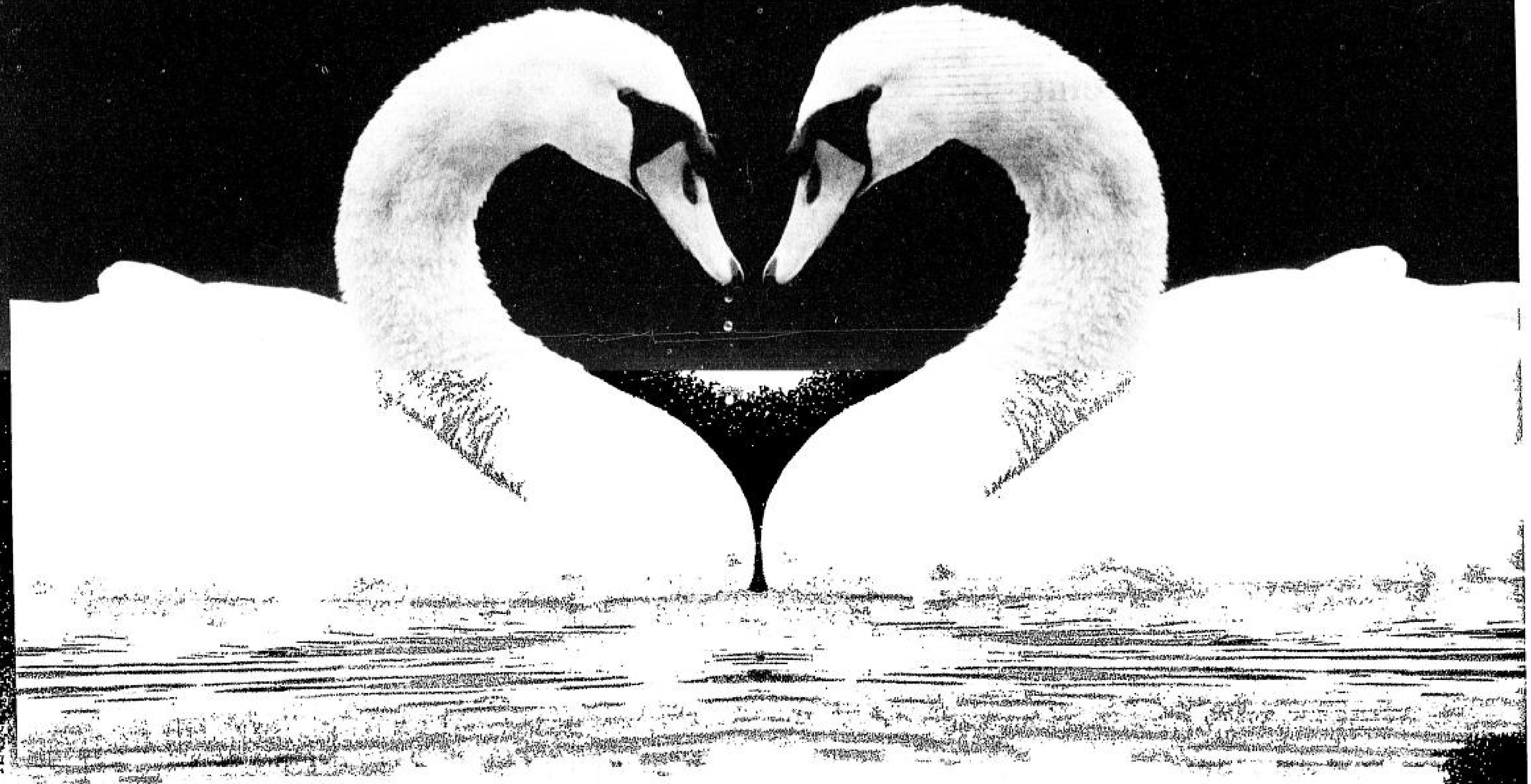

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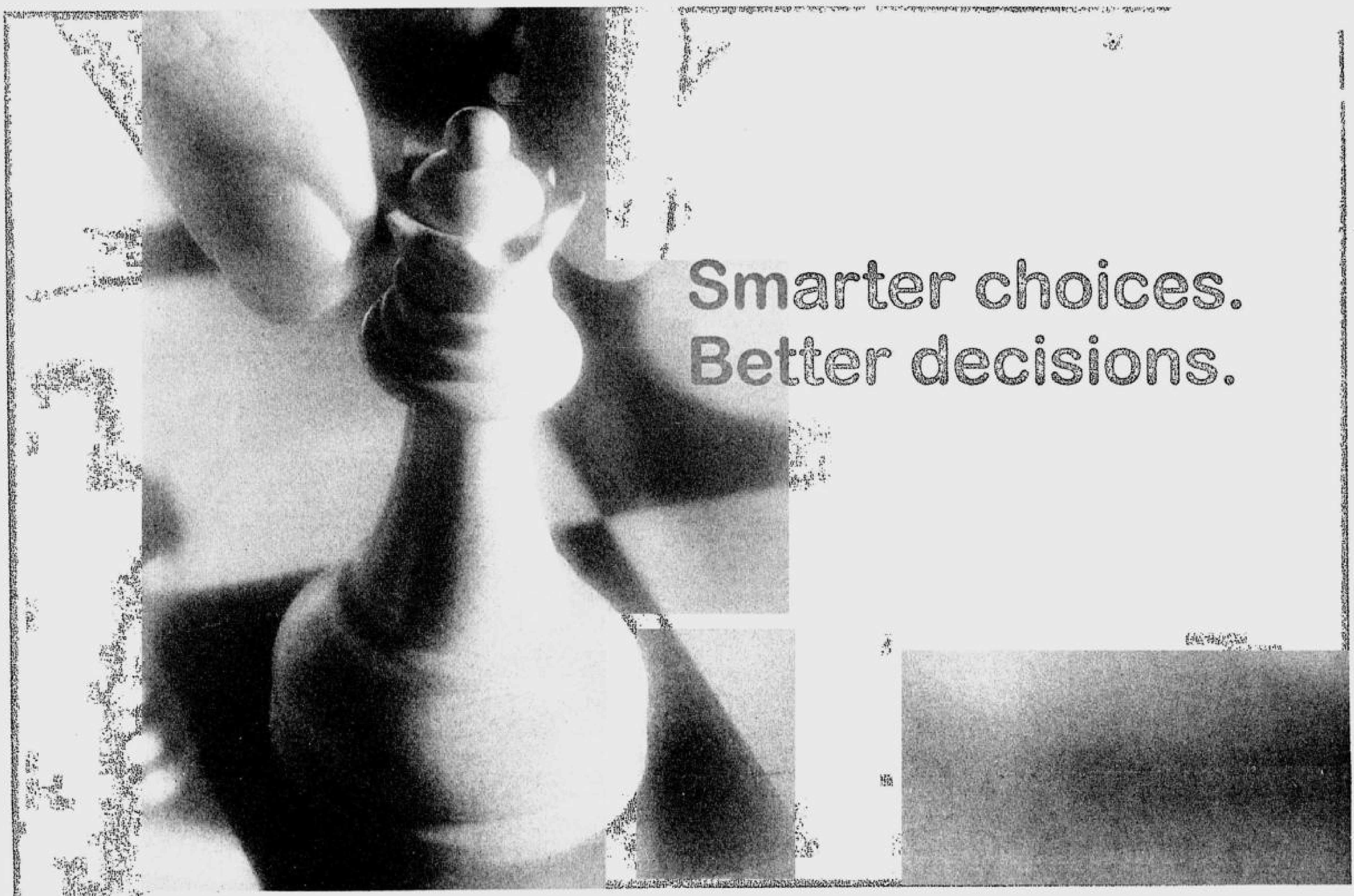

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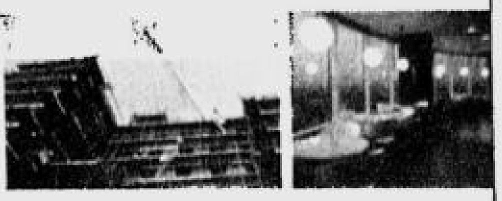

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Job Code: HRM

He/she will be responsible for organizational development, recruitment, selection and placement, compensation and benefits administration, performance appraisal, training and development, and employee relations.

- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or related courses
- At least 5 years cumulative experience in handling all facets of human resources gained from any industry
- Excellent written and oral communications skills

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER Job Code: BDM

He/she will be tasked with identifying client project requirements, preparation of proposals, client representation, company presentations, and other activities related to business development and client maintenance.

- College graduate
- At least 7 years experience in high-level sales and marketing
- Strong knowledge of the industry, preferably with existing contact network
- Effective presentation and communication skills
- Aggressive attitude with pleasing personality

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Job Code: PDO

He/she will be tasked to handle all facets of product development particularly in analyzing the market for possible real estate ventures leading to realization of such ventures

- Graduate of Business Management or other related course
- At least of 5 years work experience
- Must have a strong background in research and product development preferably in real estate or banking institutions
- Must have good presentation and negotiation skills
- With strong leadership qualities

COST ACCOUNTING OFFICER Job Code: CAO

He/she will be tasked to maintain, monitor and analyze, the standard, actual, and budgeted costs of the firms' various projects with varying scope and complexity. He/she will also play a key role in the budgeting process, coordinating with various strategic business and operating units in coming up with flexible budgets.

- College graduate of Accountancy
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) a must
- At least six (6) years experience in Cost Accounting preferably in a project-based service firm
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Highly analytical and process-oriented

OPERATIONS MANAGER Job Code: OPM

He shall be responsible for managing the operations of an architectural and engineering design process outsourcing facility. He shall maintain client relationship and satisfaction.

- Professional registration in architecture required
- At least 3 years experience in a similar capacity and 10 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation preferred
- Must have strong leadership qualities
- International exposure an advantage
- Must be willing to travel abroad
- Excellent presentation and communication skills

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER Job Code: APM

He shall oversee production of contract documents, detailing and specifications writing for various project types. He shall also be responsible for coordination with clients and consultants (MEPS) to ensure architectural design/interior design intent is maintained. He shall be in-charge of final review, quality control and timely submission of project deliverables.

- College degree in architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 10 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Strong leadership qualities, managerial and organizational skills required
- Has working knowledge of AutoCAD 2004/2005
- International exposure an advantage
- Must be willing to travel abroad
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

PROJECT COORDINATOR Job Code: PRC

He shall be responsible for over-all coordination with Client, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing/Fire Protection and Structural (MEPS) engineering consultants from conceptual to construction documentation stages. He shall be in-charge of design review, quality control and timely submission of project deliverables.

- College degree in architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 5 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Proficiency in Autocad 2004/2005 required
- Willing to travel
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

SPECIFICATIONS WRITER Job Code: SWA

He shall be responsible for the preparation of specifications for all project types and for managing library of materials.

- College degree in architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 5 years experience as specs writer using AIA/CSI Masterformat
- Excellent written and oral communication skills required

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT OFFICER Job Code: PMO

He shall be responsible for managing schedule and manpower requirements in production of contract documents. He shall also undertake quality control in sheet composition, content and consistency in CADD standards.

- College degree in architecture
- Professional registration preferred
- At least 5 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required
- Excellent communication skills required

CADD DESIGNER Job Code: CAD

He shall be primarily responsible for generating working drawings

- College degree in architecture
- At least 3 years experience in construction documentation for architecture (preferably high-rise) or interior design projects preferred
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required
- Proficiency in modeling and graphic/rendering software an advantage

PROJECT OFFICER / ENGINEER / ARCHITECT Job Code: PRE

He shall be responsible for construction supervision/inspection. He shall undertake project management and shall ensure design quality control during project implementation.

- College degree in Architecture/ Electrical Engineering and /or Mechanical Engineering
- Professional registration preferred
- With 3 years experience
- Exposure in construction & fit-out preferred
- International exposure an advantage
- Computer literacy and proficiency preferred

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- **Excellent ability to read, write, speak and understand American English**
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- **Qualified candidates must have prior work experience in conducting outbound or inbound phone calls, speaking with consumers.**
- **Above average computer proficiency in basic office software**

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- **Must have at least 1 year experience as a transcriptionist (either medical or legal)**
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  - **Advanced English Punctuation Skills**
  - **Computer Literate**
  - **Proficient in any Word Processor**

Call Center Agent (Nurse)

- **Certified Philippine Nurse is preferred**
- **Above average ENGLISH communication skills (oral & written)**
- **Computer literate**
- **Able to document meticulously**
- **Possess critical thinking skills**
- **Capacity to function independently**
- **Work well in stressful situations**

Call Center Agent (Sales)

- **Excellent ability to read, write, speak and understand American English**
- **Qualified candidates must have prior work experience in conducting outbound or inbound phone calls for [illegible] marketing activities.**
- **Above average computer proficiency in basic office software**

All Positions REQUIRE the following General Qualifications:

- **College graduate**
- **Willingness to work flexible shifts**
- **Solid work ethic and Professional work attitude**

Interested applicants are invited to our Job Fair on February 20, 2006, from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.
Job Fair location will be at the ground floor of the 88 Corporate Center bldg., Valero cor. Sedeño Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City (across Paseo Center).

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  - HR back office support (Speaks Mandarin)
- Digital Imaging Company (Voice Support)
  - HR back office support (Speaks German or French)

Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2 year Vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

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- Financial Planning Manager
- HR Associate - Performance Management
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Call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts
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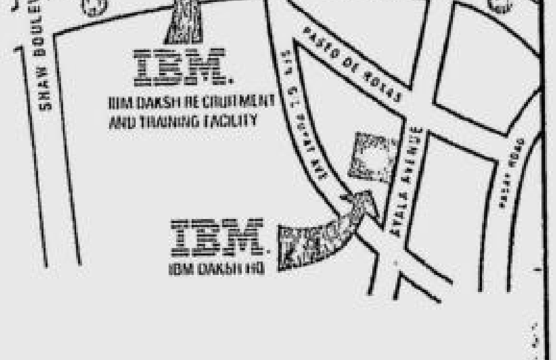

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Reap the benefits of an exceptional career at Megaworld Corporation, the country's premier property developer. Join a successful organization that has been voted a Philippine Superbrand, the Philippine Marketing Association's Marketing Company of 2004, *FinanceAsia's* Best-managed Philippine Company, a top performer in *Asiamoney's* Best-managed Companies poll and one of *Euromoney's* Best Property Companies in Asia.

Training Supervisor
- Psychology/Behavioral Science/Mass Communication graduate
- Female, aged 25 to 29
- Familiar with MS Office applications
- With excellent communications skills
- Experienced in training, recruitment and organizational development

HR Assistant (Employee Relations)
- Psychology/Behavioral Science/Mass Communication graduate
- Female, at least 21 years old
- Familiar with MS Office applications
- With excellent interpersonal skills

Account Management Specialist
- Graduate of any four-year course
- At least 21 years old
- Willing to do client calls
- Preferably experienced in credit and collection

Accounts Payable Assistant
- BS Accountancy/BS Commerce major in Accountancy graduate
- With at least 6 months' experience in a similar position
- Proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel

Financial Analyst
- BS Accountancy graduate
- Not more than 30 years old
- Experience in audit is an advantage

JR Accountant
- Certified Public Accountant
- Aged 25 to 28
- Knowledgeable with financial statement preparation, bookkeeping and general accounting
- Works well under pressure

Division Secretary
- Graduate of any four-year course
- Female, at least 21 years old
- With excellent communication skills
- Hardworking and attentive to details
- With or without experience

Receptionist
- Graduate of any four-year course
- Female, at least 21 years old
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills

Graphic Artist
- BS Fine Arts/Advertising graduate from a reputable university
- With 2 to 3 years' experience as an illustrator/free-hand artist with background in graphics and signages

Customer Relations
- Graduate of any four-year course
- At least 21 years old
- With 1 year experience in a service-oriented company and excellent interpersonal skills

Marketing Officer
- BS Marketing graduate from a reputable university
- Aged 21 to 30
- Good in conceptualizing and implementing plans, strategies and promotion mixes
- With excellent communication and planning skills

Management Analyst
- Graduate of BS Management/Economics or any business course from a reputable university
- Female, at least 21 years old
- With good scholastic records
- Hardworking, flexible and attentive to details
- With or without experience

Account Executive/ Marketing Assistant
- BS Business Administration graduate
- Female, at least 25 years old
- With 2 years of marketing experience

Executive Assistant
- BS Commerce Major in Banking and Finance graduate
- Female, at least 25 years old

Cost Control Assistant
- BS Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate
- Female, at least 21 years old and above
- With 1 to 2 years of experience in a restaurant setting
- Familiar with the Fidelio system

** We also accept on-the-job trainees.

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION
THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
20/F The World Centre, 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail: hr.recruitment@megaworldcorp.com • Web Site: www.megaworldcorp.com
Interested applicants may mail their resumé or send it via email
from February 13 to 17. Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

Senior Project Assistant

Responsibilities

The position is responsible for assisting in the coordination, supervision and implementation of Special Capital Projects of the Asset and Project Management Section (OAFA-AP). Specific responsibilities include:

Project Implementation
- ensuring that the construction and implementation of the project conforms to the plans and specifications.
- recommending technical solutions or changes that are necessary in the implementation of the project.
- reporting and/or providing recommendations on changes in the cost and quantity of materials, labor or other items that would affect the budget and timely completion of the project.
- coordinating the production of detailed drawings needed in the implementation of the project with the drafting personnel and design consultants.

Project Administration
- reviewing the accuracy and completeness of contractors' claims and other contractual documents prior to verification by the supervisor.
- requesting and deploying manpower and equipment needed to ensure timely completion of the project.
- maintaining a record of the summary of the quantities, costs and timing of materials, labor and equipment used in implementing a specific project for future reference.

Others
- performing other duties as may be assigned by the position's immediate supervisor, Head, OAFA-AP and/or Director, OAFA.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to Head, OAFA-AP and Director, OAFA through the Project Management Officer of OAFA-AP.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include:
- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level.
- a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or Architecture; preferably a registered Civil Engineer or Architect.
- at least five years of relevant work experience with exposure in supporting team decision.
- solid working knowledge in the design, construction and renovation of buildings, and installation of building services equipment.
- recent site supervision experience in building works.
- good computer skills and knowledge of common word-processing, spreadsheets and graphic software used within multilateral organizations.
- knowledge of filing system of plans, drawings, presentation and documents within multilateral organizations.
- sound working knowledge of ISO best practices and procedures particularly on building construction methodology.
- extensive knowledge of engineering/architectural drafting and presentation skills.
- proficiency in oral and communication skills.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-008(4)-OAFA-AP** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **24 February 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

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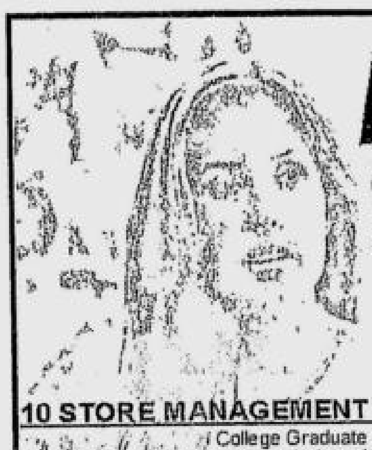
For GRADE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL LEVELS

Graduates of Ateneo, La Salle, UA&P, U.P., Miriam, & UST are given TOP PRIORITY
Submit your Resumé (w/ 2x2 picture) to HRD, Pasig Blvd. cor. Rosemarie Lane, Pasig City
or email: ris@reedleyschool.com

Competitive Salary Package plus Travel Benefits await highly qualified applicants.



MARKS & SPENCER

Marks & Spencer, an International Master Franchise hall of fame awardee in retail category, invites you to join and be a part of our expansion program for the year 2006.
We are looking for ...

10 STORE MANAGEMENT CANDIDATES
College Graduate
Willing to undergo intensive training in Store Operations
At least 1 year supervisory experience
With excellent communication and leadership skills
Assertive and flexible

1 TRAINING ASSISTANT
Psychology or Behavioral Science Graduate
Preferably with experience in personnel work
With good communication skills, computer literate
Can deal with people from all levels of organization

2 AUDITORS
Accounting Graduate
Preferably with work experience in audit
Good moral character and trustworthy
Highly flexible in dealing with all levels of organization

1 INVENTORY SUPERVISOR
Accounting Graduate
At least 1 year work experience in inventory
Preferably with supervisory experience
Good moral character and trustworthy
Highly flexible in dealing with all levels of organization

2 INVENTORY ANALYSTS
Accounting Graduate
At least 1 year work experience in inventory
Good moral character and trustworthy
Highly flexible in dealing with all levels of organization

1 ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Accounting Graduate
At least 1 year work experience in general accounting
Good moral character and trustworthy

Applicants are requested to apply personally at:
RUSTAN MARKETING SPECIALISTS, INC
4/F Urban Bldg., 405 Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati
Walking distance from MRT Buendia Station
Bring you resume with your most recent ID picture

Rustan Marketing Specialists, Inc. is the franchise holder of Marks & Spencer Philippines

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We invite you to join our highly creative and innovative Team.

CHATEAU 1771
GROUP OF RESTAURANTS

Banquet Sales Manager
- Has strong sales background and network can conduct productive.
- Knowledgeable in costing, menu planning, food styling and events conceptualization.
- At least 2 to 5 years banquet management experience in the service industry.
- 25-35 years old, mature, trustworthy, entrepreneurial mindset
- Can efficiently plan and organize both on and off premise catering for multi concept restaurants. Produces thorough & detailed work
- Preferably HRA/HRM/Tourism or Business Graduate.

Banquet Coordinator
- Preferably HRA/HRM Graduate.
- Minimum 2 to 3 years work experience in the same capacity.
- Will do on premise coordination and handle all follow up calls.
- Process and prepare banquet and contract documents.
- Can organize in-house, functions and catering outside.

Customer Service/ Marketing Coordinator (Chateau)
- Will take care of Customer Service Management and Local Store Marketing.
- Knowledge in graphic design an advantage
- Highly personable, charming and excellent interpersonal skills.
- Adept at computer programs & applications.

Customer Service/ Marketing Coordinator (Sidebar)
- Minimum 2 to 3 years work experience in the same capacity.
- Coordinates with the marketing department for strategy implementation and membership club activities.
- Handle customer service management during operations.
- Will manage customer database and in charge of guest profiling.
- Will occasionally conduct market research.

Marketing Officer
- Preferably HRA/HRM/Management or Business Graduate.
- 25- 30 years old
- Must have a passion for advertising, promotions, events coordination, graphic designing, sponsorship and public relations
- Enthusiastic, decisive, resourceful and creative
- At least 2 years work experience in the Marketing field.

Interested applicants may submit their resumés to:
Human Resources Department
11/F Agustin 1 Bldg. 28 F. Ortigas Jr. Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
email: hr@chateaugroup.com

Position Available Until February 28, 2006

Would you like to be part of our success?

Essensuals is rapidly becoming one of the biggest names in hairdressing. Career opportunities are endless!

Opportunities for all levels in our **Makati** and **Ortigas Center** branches...

1. HAIR STYLISTS
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3. SALON ASSISTANTS
4. FRONT DESK PERSONNEL
5. NAIL TECHNICIANS / MANICURISTS
6. PURCHASING CLERK
7. BOOKKEEPER

*All positions require willingness to work on weekends and holidays

Interested applicants may send/submit their **resume with photo** to
G/F 6750 Retail Arcade, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

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WINES & SPIRITS DISTRIBUTION

Urgent Need for Greater Manila Area

1 Wine Shop Specialist
1 Telemarketer
4 Booking Agents

- Self-motivated and Challenge Driven
- College graduate, Computer Literate
- Experience in wine and liquor sales is a plus
- 23-28 yrs old preferred

Contact:
ACRO DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, INC.
Tel. No. 776-39-26 or 0917-8474168

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

LICENSED PHARMACIST

– Preferably Chinese speaking

Interested applicants may apply at:
1335-1337 G. Masangkay St., Sta. Cruz
Manila (besides Metropolitan Hospital)
Pls. bring BIO-DATA with picture

For Immediate Hiring

ARCHITECTURE GRAD.

Experience in 2D & 3D CAD Rendering
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Send Resumé to:

Lansdale Realty Development
Rm. 508 Greenhills Mansion
Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, MM
4534490 - Maribel

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Accounting graduate with initiative
- With 1-2 years work experience, below 30 years old
- Computer literate
- Good opportunity with a very stable company

Please send your Resumé and Transcript of Records to:
M.C.P.O Box 2258 Makati City 1262

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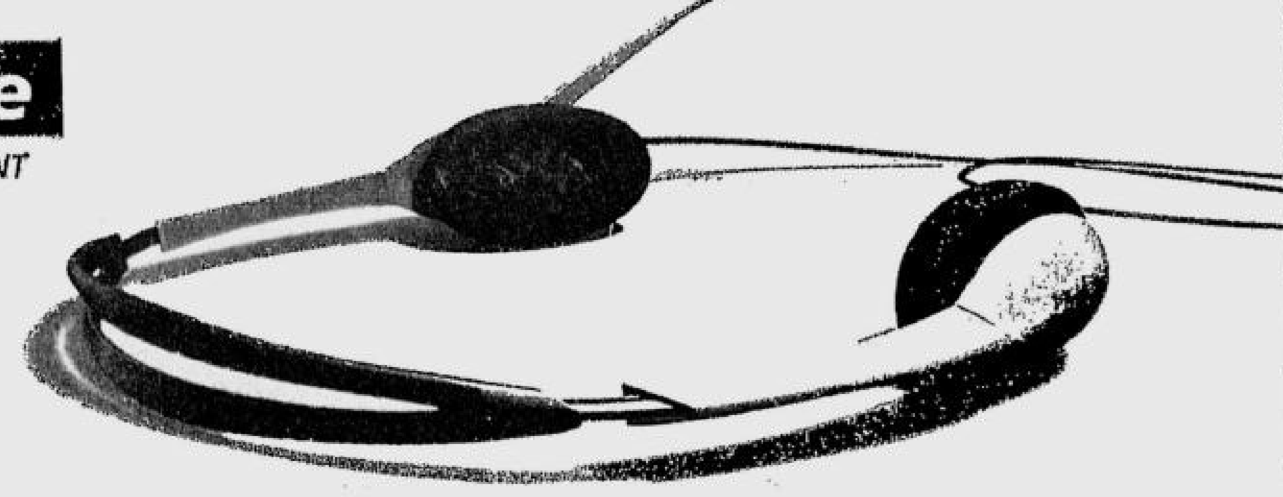

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Level 3 MS303, EDSA Central Pavilion
Mandaluyong City
Hotline: (02) 637-7111 local 301 & 302
Monday-Friday 8AM to 7PM
Saturday 8AM to 1PM
www.teleperformance.ph

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or its equivalent; Technical background is an advantage

INBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS

At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

OUTBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS

At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Must have sales experience; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

CLIENT SERVICE MANAGER

Two(2)-Three(3) years in a call center; Should have excellent presentation skills; Detail-oriented; Team player

ASSISTANT CALL CENTER MANAGER

ACCM level / comparative to current or previous experience; One (1) year of customer service experience; Has strong background in computer applications; Outgoing/ Friendly/ Mature; Active listening skills; Strong motivational skills

TRAINERS (Technical Account)

Excellent presentation skills; Strong technical background is a must; Call center experience is an advantage; Team-oriented & able to work in a fast-paced environment

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS

At least one (1) year in customer service in a call center; Technical experience is a plus; Outgoing friendly and mature; Strong motivational skills

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISORS

One (1) year supervisory experience in a call center environment; Experience as a quality assurance supervisor/analyst is an advantage

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months call center experience; Must demonstrate honesty, reliability & ability to follow Corporate QA directives; Strong attention to details

MISSION CONTROL ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months customer service experience; One (1) year call center experience; Ability to work under pressure, Meet deadlines & be accountable for the performance of others; Demonstrated leadership skills, dependability & initiative; Flexible schedule

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DATA ANALYST

At least (6) months administrative assistant experience in a fast-paced environment; Excellent skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Project and Outlook; Internet savvy; Excellent organizational and communication skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Excellent time management skills; Strong attention to detail

PROCESSING SPECIALIST

Able to work in a fast-paced environment; Proficient in Microsoft Excel; Excellent time management skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Strong attention to detail

All positions require excellent verbal & written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office & Internet Explorer
Interested applicants may bring the following requirements: Updated resume / 2 pcs of 2x2 picture / 6 pcs of 1x1 picture

NOW HIRING IN BACOLOD
RECRUITMENT CENTER 2/F San Carlos room, Bacolod Convention Plaza Magsaysay Avenue, Bacolod City 6100, Negros Occidental

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Noritake Porcelana Mfg., Inc.

A pioneer enterprise in the manufacture of porcelain dinnerware in the Phils.

URGENTLY needs an

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS

A Certified Public Accountant with accounting work experience in a managerial capacity in a manufacturing company. Highly computer literate. Not more than 35 years old.

RESPONSIBILITIES

He / She will be tasked to direct the activities of Accounting Department, especially the preparation of financial reports and tax requirements, provide control systems in the performance of accounting functions, and review and monitor the company's financial performance and report the same to Top Management.

Qualified applicants may submit their resume with attached photo to

Noritake Porcelana Mfg., Inc., J.P. Rizal Street, Concepcion, Marikina City
or e-mail to hr@noritake.com.ph or contact tel. nos. 942-1185; 942-0727

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Urgently Needs of the following:

AESTHETICIAN

☐ Female; 20-25 years old; At least 5'2" in height. Hardworking; Flexible; Non Smoker; Slim; With Smooth Hands; With Pleasing Personality and Fair Complexion; Willing to be assigned in other branches; At least college level

PATIENT CARE/RECEPTIONISTS

☐ Female; 20-25 years old; At least 5'4" in height; Good Communication Skills; Hardworking; Flexible; Non Smoker; Slim; With Smooth Hands; With Pleasing Personality and Fair Complexion; Willing to be assigned in other branches; At least college level

Interested Applicants should personally bring their resumé at *forever flawless* FACE & BODY CENTER INC. from Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at:

#748 Edsa West Kamias, Quezon City
with Telephone Nos.: 926-9418 to 19
and 924-1626
and look for Ms. Gigi and Ms. Aileen Alviz

Email: gpdyamante@yahoo.com

WANTED

COST ACCOUNTANT

Accounting graduate
3 years experience in cost accounting
internal audit of a manufacturing concern
can design production internal control systems and procedures

LABORATORY Q.C. Assistants

BS Chem, Chem Eng or related field

Apply in person at Suite 2505 Tektite Tower West, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 9-11 am ONLY (Tel. 6357966-71). Bring resumé with 2x2 picture, Transcript of Record and NBI Clearance.

LAW FIRM
LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME

LAWYER

- **18,000.00 per month**
- **not more than 31 yrs. Old**
- **Call 7222369 (Michelle)**
- **Greenhills Office**

PRIME SECURITY & PROTECTIVE AGENCY, INC.
Tel. Nos. 926-0795, 927-3317; 412-6803

IMMEDIATE HIRING

- MALE GUARDS - 22-32 years old, 5'7", college level
- MALE ACCOUNTING GRADUATE
- GUARD SUPERVISOR - college grad., Computer Literate, Technical writing skill

---

Associate SRP Management Reports Analyst

Responsibilities

The position is responsible for providing analytical and technical support in the management and administration of Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) investments by undertaking a range of specialized duties. Specific responsibilities include:

Investment Policy and Strategies

- participating in policy review and providing opinion on review on recommendations.
- handling ADB protocol to initiate changes proposed by the policy review.

Investment Activity Monitoring

- reviewing audited month-end reports from the global custodian to verify that SRP assets are invested in accordance with policy guidelines.
- reporting any violations encountered and recommending remedial action.
- maintaining and monitoring a "watch list" of investments with potential downgrading of credit ratings and investments with unusual characteristics to ensure proper remedial action taken.
- analyzing methodologies adopted for pricing portfolio securities; tracking portfolio securities held in safekeeping; accounting for purchases and sales of securities; and tracking securities used as collateral.
- reconciling records and net-asset-value calculation of securities held in portfolios as reported by investment managers and the global custodian to ensure proper accounting of portfolio inventory
- reporting any differences found and recommending ways to resolve these differences.
- assisting in the preparation of reports on investment performance, portfolio activities, changes in asset value and financial risks undertaken by investment managers.
- compiling and analyzing specialized financial information to produce graphs, charts, and tables to supplement SRP reports
- keeping abreast of market conditions and of industry best practices pertaining to the management and investment of pension fund assets.

Cash and Float Management

- identifying ways to minimize costs to SRP.
- developing mechanism and maintaining control over cash balances in portfolio to ensure they are utilized for earnings.
- monitoring ADB contributions to and remittances out of SRP investment portfolio to ensure accurate accounting for changes in size of the portfolio holdings.

Tax Reclaim Management

- establishing and maintaining a systematic approach to monitoring taxes withheld on investment earnings and ensuring the fund to SRP.

Investment Manager/Global Custodian Oversight

- assisting in managing relationships between investment managers and the global custodian for smooth and efficient post trade processing and reporting.
- monitoring and validating fees charged for management of portfolio, custodial services and consulting services against terms of contracts and valid underlying activities.
- arranging for payment of these fees.

Office Administration

- planning and developing ways to obtain up-to-date investment data from investment managers and the global custodian, preferably electronically, to facilitate monitoring process.
- establishing an effective record-keeping system for easy retrieval and to comply with legal retention period required by ADB.
- assisting in research and study undertaken by SRP Investment Unit.
- keeping current with software technology provided by the global custodian, other relevant financial information system providers and ADB
- coordinating with software providers and Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST) for the installation and maintenance of SRP software applications in users' workstations.
- arranging for appropriate training for software users.
- performing other duties as required, e.g. arranging for hotel accommodations, travel, and transportation of visitors.

Support to SRP Investment Committee

- assisting in handling ADB formalities when there is a change in SRP Investment Committee membership.
- assisting in organizing Committee meetings.
- serving as back-up to the Secretary of the Committee.

Coordinating Role

- serving as liaison of SRP Investments Unit with ADB internal parties (e.g. Controller (CTL), Office of the Auditor General (OAG), and Plan participants), investment managers, and global custodian to assist all parties in clarifying matters of interest to their responsibility areas.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Senior Risk Management Specialist (SRP).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor's degree, preferably in finance, accounting, economics, mathematics or statistics.
- at least five years of experience in international banking operations, pension fund investment or pension fund administration or accounting.
- a working knowledge of portfolio investment administration
- a good understanding of the nature and behavior of global finance and capital markets and a strong foundation in investment principles and pension fund management.
- strong in written and oral communication.
- a high degree of numerical skills and advanced computer literacy.
- a keen understanding and knowledge of business protocols.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-AS06-005(4)-TDID and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/applform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by 24 February 2006.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

www.adb.org

Asian Development Bank ADB

WANTED SURVEYOR

Surveyor/instrument man, not more than 30 years old, at least 3 years experience in surveying, set-out of references and control points, levels and profiles. Preferably experienced in survey of buildings and site development, and proficient in CAD; knowledge in using Total Station an advantage

Submit resumé to 9574 F. Yabut Circle
Kalayaan Ave., Guadalupe, Makati or fax to 7525347

WANTED CAD OPERATOR

Architecture graduate, not more than 30 years old; proficient in CAD; knowledge in computer rendering an advantage.

Submit resumé to 9574 F. Yabut Circle
Kalayaan Ave., Guadalupe, Makati
or fax to 7525347

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Apply now and get a cellphone in 90 days!

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ADB Ave., Ortigas Center

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OPERATIONS
Operations Manager (Technical Support, Outbound Sales, BPO Program)
Team Captains (Technical Support, Customer Service)
Customer Service Associates
Outbound Sales Associates
Technical Support Associates
Inbound Sales Associates

TRAINING
Speech Trainers
Trainers (Technical Support, Outbound Sales)

QUALITY ASSURANCE
Quality Assurance Analysts

BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT
MIS Analyst

HUMAN RESOURCES
Organizational Development Specialists
Marketing and PR Manager
Human Resources Generalists
Recruitment Associates

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Systems Administrator
Network Administrator

SUPPORT
Frontdesk Associates
Administrative Assistant

BPO PROGRAM
SQL SIEBEL Specialist
SQL Scripter
Market Data Management Specialist

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A fast growing Japanese company
at Mactan Economic Zone, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu
is in need of:

PRODUCTION MANAGER

- Male, 30 years old and above
- Must have exemplary communication and leadership skills
- Able to understand Cebuano
- A graduate of any Engineering course from a reputable school with good scholastic records
- Must possess the expertise in the field of Assembly Operations / Production or Plant facilities
- Must have vast technical expertise
- Willing to be relocated in Cebu

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

- Male 28-35 years old
- Able to understand Cebuano
- A graduate of any Engineering course from a reputable school with good scholastic records
- Must have at least 3-5 years experience as a production supervisor in the field of Assembly Operations / Production
- Must have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Willing to be relocated in Cebu

Interested Applicants may e-mail their Application Letter, Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture and TOR to:
hrd_section@yahoo.com

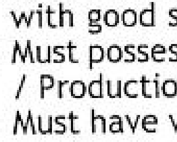
WANTED

1) ACCOUNTING STAFF
BS Accountancy Graduate at least 25 years old, 5yrs. experience, competent and hardworking.

2) SEWERS
Highly skilled

834 Felipe Pike St.,
Bg. Ilog, Pasig City
Tel No. 671-1649

Where you find the best.



JOB Market

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A US-based I.T. Company is in urgent need of dynamic individuals for its Philippine office.

Business Development Officer

- Bachelor Degree in Engineering, Computer Science or related courses
- Excellent communication skills, with pleasing personality
- Proficiency in computer applications is required
- Background on solution selling an advantage
- Knowledge of the following industry is a big plus:
  - *Utilities (Water / Power / Telco)*
  - *Local and National Government*
  - *Engineering Design / Construction*

Admin Assistant / Receptionist

- College graduate of any 4-year course
- Excellent oral communication skills, with pleasing personality
- Proficiency in related computer applications is required

Candidates must be between 21 to 35 years old, with good interpersonal skills, and able to work efficiently under pressure

Hiring Manager from U.S. will be in Manila for only 2 weeks

Please send your resumé with 2x2 colored picture immediately to:

PDR Technology Asia Inc.
33-D Rufino Pacific Tower
6784 Ayala Ave. Makati City 1226
or email to: jobs@pacificdr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES (MSR)

For Bulacan, Nueva Ecija-Tarlac, Bataan-Zambales Assignments

- Male, College Graduate
- At least 3 years work experience in a medium-sized or lage company engaged in medical or pharmaceutical products
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Pleasing personality
- Must know how to drive and possesses a driver's license

Send resumé with at least three references, transcript of records and 2x2 ID picture on or before **February 24, 2006 to:**

PRYCE GASES INC.
McArthur Highway
Sindalan, City of San Fernando
Pampanga

PHARMACISTS
WANTED IMMEDIATELY

If you are a female licensed pharmacist, preferably single, with at least one year experience dealing with BFAD and wish to work with a dynamic company. This is your chance.

Submit your resumé with picture via email at: sangiovanihrd@yahoo.com. Qualified candidates will be contacted via SMS for their testing and interview schedules

---

lomin SECURITY is in need of a

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

Open Source development experience required. Proficient in C++, PHP, Perl, Python, sh, and SQL languages. Must be able to work via the Internet. Forty hours a week. Preferably a residence of Paranaque City.

Please send your resume to: myra@lomin.com
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Male/Female, single, Computer Science graduate with pleasing personality

ACCOUNTING CLERK
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Interested parties, please apply in person at:
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2/F Rose Industries Bldg., 11 Pioneer St.,
Kapitolyo, Pasig City
Tel. 634-7262 • 635-9006

•WANTED•

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Qualification:
- at least 3 years related work experience, college level
- not more than 40 years old, holder of prof. driver's license
- Restriction code of 8 is an advantage

Send Comprehensive resumé, 2x2 ID picture
Diploma and other credentials to:

Filipinas Transport, Inc.
8526-1 Juanita De Leon St. Brgy.
San Dionisio, Sucat, Parañaque City 1700

SALES COORDINATORS

Age : Female, 20-30 years old
College Graduate from reputable schools
Pleasant disposition, hard working, honest
Fluent in English & Chinese (optional)

Interested parties are requested to e-mail to **cascade_cc@yahoo.com**, an e-commerce company based in Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No.: 634-6273

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

A new and exciting production team is in need of a smart, reliable, personable and creative marketing executive.

Must be well-connected with sponsors and advertisers. Experience in promotions and advertising is a plus.

Please send your resumé and contact info to
gina_dejoras@yahoo.com
or **FAX 887-7708**

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We are currently hiring **Architectural Designers/Architectural Assistants** and would like to invite prospective applicants to submit their resumés to the following address and email.

NO WALK-IN applicants will be entertained.

A Real Estate Company based in the South of Manila is looking for Full time **SALES AGENTS WITH ALLOWANCE**

Requirements:
- Male or female, 25-35 years old
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Preferably with sales experience (in real estate or other fields)
- Must possess a pleasing personality

Please submit resumé at Unit 905 Pago One Building 1215 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang 1750

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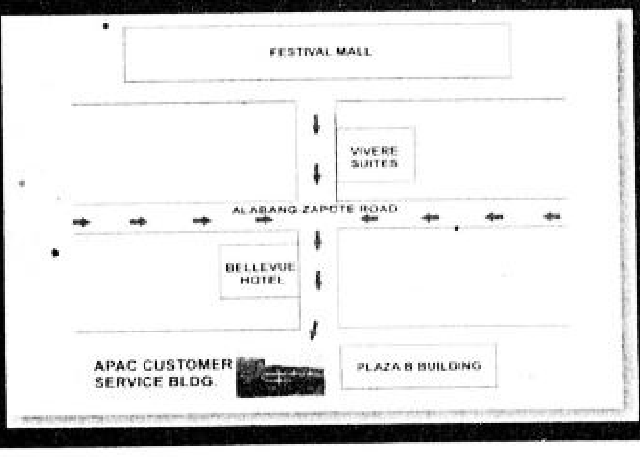

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Regional Director

Background

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals; 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives; and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

A regional director for Mindanao region will have overall responsibility for the implementation of activities in the region. Implementation will focus on working with project partners in the strategic areas to implement a core package of grants, technical assistance and training. A key responsibility will be the integration of regional staff to accomplish all activities and achieve all targets and objectives in the region. The regional director will also ensure the synchronization of the activities of the three components in a manner that component activities are complementing each other's goals. All staff in regional offices report to the regional director. In addition, the regional director will be tasked with monitoring the performance of the field-based FP coordinators, identifying issues and providing solutions, and working with the senior technical advisors to jointly develop a mutually acceptable work plan for each strategic area.

The regional director will also directly supervise the activities of component managers in three technical areas, all of whom will work out of the regional office. The component managers are tasked with monitoring activities and providing technical guidance to field implementation activities in their component area, which include workplace-based FP programs, market development, and private provider network expansion. Component managers also provide technical support and oversight to the FP coordinators serving as project managers in each of the strategic areas in their region, comprised of provinces or cities. Component managers reporting to the Luzon director will divide responsibilities for north and south Luzon.

General Tasks

1. Review the project technical proposal and other relevant documentation, including the following: USAID/Philippines strategic plan; documents from past and present projects in the Philippines relevant to PRISM such as the CMS, The Policy Project; research studies on private sector programs and initiatives in family planning; the PRISM annual work plans; PRISM quarterly reports for the first year; the reports from the National Demographic and Health Surveys and Annual Family Planning Surveys; SIA assessment reports; and other relevant materials on local and national FP programs.
2. Participate in the annual project work planning processes and provide input into the establishment of coordination mechanisms between head office and regional field offices.
3. Manage regional office staff in a manner that promotes efficiency and productivity at the workplace.
4. Build effective partnerships with local organizations and represent PRISM in events sponsored by local organizations when necessary.

Specific Tasks

1. Review and approve integrated work plans prepared by FP coordinators, with input from component managers and senior technical advisors, for each SIA in the region;
2. Prepare and submit required reports on time.
3. Review SIA activities with respect to each component objective and evaluate corresponding fund expenditures with respect to cost efficiency.
4. Work with office administrative staff in the preparation of the office annual budget.
5. Engage regional staff in the development of strategies to anticipate, prevent, and counteract potential opposition to project activities.
6. Conduct weekly staff meeting for staff in the regional office, and conduct monthly regional meeting for all regional staff.
7. Plan and conduct orientation and regular monthly meeting of FP coordinators in the SIAs covered by the regional office.
8. Conduct regular quarterly field visits in SIAs, and provide feedback to Manila-based senior technical advisors of any implementation problems that need attention and solutions.
9. Monitor and evaluate the performance of technical and administrative office staff and submit to headquarters performance evaluation forms signed by the staff.
10. Approve all regional expenditures and act as signatory on a regional bank account.

Reporting

The regional director will report directly to the Senior Field Operations Director who will be responsible for the monitoring regional directors' overall performance.

Qualifications:

- With at least 10 years of management experience in any of the following fields: family planning, health care, sales, etc.
- Networking experience with health provider associations, pharmaceutical industry associations, business organizations is an advantage
- Preferably with post graduate degree in business, management or other related fields
- Excellent in written and verbal communications
- Preferably resident of Davao

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 17th February 2006.

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We are looking for a **Law Librarian** with the following qualifications:

1. Graduate of Library Science or Legal Management
2. With impressive organizational and communication skills
3. With good academic records
4. No work experience required but must be computer literate

Interested applicants may submit their resumes to:

Atty. Irene Joy J. Besido-Garcia
Roco Kapunan Migallos & Luna Law Offices
16th Floor Strata 2000 Bldg., F. Ortigas, Jr. Road.
(formerly Emerald Ave.), Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Email: ijbesido@rbkmlaw.com

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1. **Accounting Supervisor**
   - Female, Single, BS Accountancy Graduate w/ CPA Licensure, Computer Literate
2. **Company Nurse**
   - Female, Single, BS Nursing Graduate with Licensure, preferably with 1 year experience as Industrial Nurse
3. **Plumber / Carpenter**
   - Male, Single
   - Graduate of any Technical Course / Vocational Course
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Apply at : FUJI ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES, INC.
107 Enterprise Drive SEPZII Carmelray Industrial Park
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(049) 549-3291 or (02) 844-6183 loc 208, 220

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
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Scope of Work

Senior Component Director: Market Development

Background:

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The Market Development Component of the project is intended to increase recognition of business opportunities in the hormonal FP commodities market in the Philippines and to motivate businesses to take advantage of those opportunities. The Senior Component Director for Market Development will be responsible for developing and implementing activities to accomplish these objectives.

General Tasks:

1 Review the project technical proposal and other relevant background documentation, including USAID/Philippines strategic plan, documents from other relevant projects in the Philippines (past and present) such as CMS, research results on marketing programs and initiatives, the project's annual work plan, NDHS and FPS reports, etc.
2 Participate in annual project work planning processes and prepare market development component annual plans and GANTT charts.
3 Work with the PSAU Director and the Senior Finance and Administrative Manager to prepare annual budget for marketing component activities.
4. Coordinate with the Senior Component Directors for Workplace Initiatives and Private Practice Providers to identify and capitalize on potential synergies in project strategy development and implementation across components.
5. Collaborate with the M&E Specialist to monitor and evaluate marketing component activities.
6 Work with the MIS Specialist to develop and maintain a database of FP commodity sales, and forecasts of future sales, across the public, social marketing and commercial sectors by type and brand, and develop a national referral network of health service providers and suppliers.
7 Prepare and submit required project reports on time.
8 Work with the Communications Team under the supervision of the Technical Communications Director to develop and implement a marketing and public relations campaigns to inform project stakeholders about the project, its aims and purposes.
9 Work with other technical and management staff to develop approaches and strategies to anticipate, prevent and counteract potential opposition to project activities from social forces such as religious-based groups.
10 Complete other tasks and assignments as deemed appropriate by the Chief of Party.

Specific Tasks

Component 1: Workplace Initiatives

1. Support marketing inputs to ensure availability of affordable contraceptives for distribution to workplace programs and services.
2. Work with the Senior Component Workplace Director to support companies managing work place initiatives to institute cost recovery mechanisms where necessary.
3 Work with the Senior Component Workplace Director to support companies to analyze the cost benefits of provision of FP services through producing cost benefit calculators.

Component 2: Market Development

1. In coordination with the Senior Field Operations Director, ensure that activities of the Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao Marketing Development Specialists implement overall strategies and activities listed in the Senior Component Market Development Director's annual workplan.
2. Work with the Senior Component Directors for Workplace Initiatives and Private Practice and the provider associations' Liaison Officers to maintain close working relationships with the associations of manufacturers, distributors, health providers and pharmacists and drugstore owners engaged in the project.
3. Establish and maintain close working relationships with manufacturers, marketing companies, importers, and distributors of FP commodities to provide linkages and build a network of suppliers, distributors and retailers.
4. Establish and maintain a working relationship with the LEAD Project for Health to obtain information about business opportunities to market contraceptives to LGUs for distribution through public sector outlets.
5. Ensure that information about LGU business opportunities and other business opportunities such as midwife entrepreneurs and private practice providers flows to contraceptive manufacturers and distributors.
6. Assist manufacturers and distributors to define strategies to take advantage of business opportunities, particularly with respect to introduction of new brands or methods, and pricing.
7. Work with the BCC Specialist and Communications Specialist to develop communications programs and campaigns to generate demand for private sector FP products and services, including motivating the shift among non-poor FP clients from public to private sources.
8. Work with the Policy and Social Mobilization Advisors to define and manage a public relations /advertising component with respect to policy and regulatory change important to commercial manufacturers, importers and distributors.
9. Work closely with the Policy and Social Mobilization Advisors to identify policy issues relating to the private sector FP manufacturers, distributors and to the advertising and promotion of FP products and services, and assist to implement policy initiatives.
10. Work with the Policy Consultant to develop and manage relationships with national health policy agencies related to the marketing and retailing of FP commodities.

Component 3: Private Practice

1. Support marketing inputs to ensure availability of affordable contraceptives for distribution to midwives and private practice providers participating in project activities.
2. Work with the Senior Component Director for Private Practice to develop and manage the marketing requirements of its training programs
3. Work with Senior Component Director for Private Practice to implement project activities to motivate members of distributors' sales team to encourage private practice health providers to prescribe and/or sell contraceptive products.
4. Work with the Senior Component Director for Private Practice to supply marketing inputs to the work of health provider associations to promote FP provision among its members.
5. Provide technical advice and support to the Senior Component Director for Private Practice for development and implementation of a program to support sales of FP products through drug stores.

Reporting:

The Senior Component Director for Market Development will report directly to the Deputy Chief of Party or his/her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the director's overall performance.

Qualifications:

- With at least 20 years of experience in marketing of products in the commercial healthcare industry
- With at least 15 years managerial experience
- Preferably with masteral degree
- Excellent in written and oral communications
- Proficient in Word, Excel, Powerpoint

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 20th of February 2006. Please indicate the subject of your email as "Position Code: SCDMD".

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Cebu Pacific Air
Training & Development Center, Domestic Road
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- Not more than 50 years old

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- Salary - US$ 4,245 per month
- Not more than 45 years old

SECOND OFFICER
- Salary - US$ 2,698 per month
- Not more than 35 years old

THIRD OFFICER
- Salary - US$ 2,335 per month
- Not more than 30 years old

CHIEF ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 6,039 per month
- Not more than 50 years old

1st ASST. ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 4,000 per month
- Not more than 45 years old

2nd ASST. ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 2,698 per month
- Not more than 35 years old

3rd ASST. ENGINEER
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- At least 5 years Tanker Experience
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WANTED

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Minimum qualifications:

- Degree in social sciences, community development, or public health or the like;
- Experienced in research & advocacy particularly on reproductive health, & rights gender & justice issues;
- Excellent communication/report writing skills;
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications;
- Willing to render full time service

Please send your letter of application together with your updated curriculum vitaé & picture to the:

CEO, Institute for Social Studies and Action
Suite 303 Crispina Bldg.,
1589 Quezon Ave., Q.C. 1104
Telefax: (02) 410-1685
Email: issa1183@gmail.com

Deadline for application is March 1, 2006. Shortlisted applicants will be notified for interview and exam.

The *Institute for Social Studies and Action* (ISSA) is an NGO that works for human rights particularly SRHR and access to justice & health of women and others.

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
Vivre debout

Handicap International, a French international non-government organization working on behalf of Persons With Disability (PWD) in over 63 countries worldwide.

is currently seeking the following

Finance and Business Development Officer

The Finance and Business Development Officer will ensure a satisfactory professional standard of management, including budgeting, accounting, reporting, costing, development and implementation of financial and administrative procedures of Business Enterprise aimed at providing mobility devices and socio economic opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The work will also include developing business plans and identity marketing strategies, income-generating activities and developing marketing collaterals.

The candidate must possess the following:
- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or similar field
- A minimum of 5 years experience in non-profit and private sector in international financial management position. Manufacturing setting of business enterprise background is a plus.
- Good communication skills and the ability to work and cooperate in an interdisiplinary environment, where national ownership and securing the program's goals are the primary objectives
- Business development plans and marketing skills
- Excellent writing and organizational skills
- Willing to be based in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental (20 minutes ride from Cagayan de Oro City) and willing to travel extensively

Logistics Officer

The Logistics Officer will be responsible in the implementation of the standard logistics policies and procedures. Coordinate, manage and be accountable for the supplies and logistics support, including the procurement, receipts, storage, delivery of finished products to Distribution Units. Provide overall management of the vehicle fleet and consumables monitoring, management/ tracking maintenance and reporting of assets and facilities.

The candidate must possess the following:
- Graduate of 4 year course preferably Business Administration
- Management and leadership skills
- Flexibility and ability to work well and make decision under stress and potential adverse conditions and willing to work irregular hours
- Strong communication skills
- Experience in procurement and contract negotiations
- Experience in shipping, inventory management and warehousing
- Willing to be based in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental (20 minutes ride from Cagayan de Oro City)

Please send your resume to
Mia-ofc@hi-philippines.org
free.technology@gmail.com
not later than February 22, 2006

The local representative office for one of the largest assistance companies in the world with 3,500 employees providing 24/7 emergency assistance services to over 115 million members worldwide, would like to invite top-caliber applicants to join its local expansion program for the following positions:

- **GENERAL MANAGER** – to consolidate the company's foothold in the assistance industry, achieve business growth, revenues. and client satisfaction
  - ☑ Executive-level experience with strong business sense and maturity
  - ☑ Results-oriented and extraordinary leadership capabilities; innovative, good analytical and problem-solving-skills
  - ☑ Highly-flexible, energetic; with capability to assess business opportunities and possess the ability to thrive in a highly-competitive and fast-paced milieu
  - ☑ Excellent written and oral skills in English or other foreign languages
- **Marketing Manager / Asst. Manager** – to assist the Marketing Director in developing and maintaining strong client relationship and in implementing strategies and initiatives to achieve profitable growth
  - ☑ Bachelor's Degree or Post-Graduate Diploma in Marketing or equivalent
  - ☑ 3 yrs. experience in the assistance and service industry or related field
  - ☑ Excellent oral / written communication and presentation skills
  - ☑ Outstanding team leadership and organizational skills
- **Operations Coordinators/ Nurses/ Paramedics**
- **Executive Assts. / Secretaries / Accounting Staff / Clerks / CPAs**

Applicants must be college graduates with excellent interpersonal and communication skills, intermediate-level computer literacy, highly-organized, team-players and results-oriented individuals.

Send your resume by email to:

STARGROUP Asia Management Corp.
E-mail: stargroup_asia@yahoo.com

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- ✓ 3 WORK REFERRENCES (NOTARIZED)
- ✓ TOR & DIPLOMA + PRC (AUTHENTICATED)
- ✓ NOTARIZED COPIES OF TOEFL/TSE/EVAL & VISA SCREEN (IF AVAIL)

PLEASE SEND YOUR INQUIRY TO: jadams24@bellsouth.net

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A manufacturing company is in need of:

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Accounting graduate, preferably female, must not be more than 30 years old
- CPA preferred or have 3-5 years working experience
- must be able to do financial statements, costings and inventory
- knowledgeable on BIR, SSS, Pag-ibig, Philhealth requirements

Please apply in person at:

Warehouse No. 3 & 4
Sunny Realty Compound
Sandoval Ave., Pinagbuhatan
Pasig City
Contact No.: 628-36-31

Please bring resumé and transcript of records.

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- Will be the driving force of the sales team in achieving the sales revenue
- Responsible in developing new accounts
- Has a track record of sales success
- With good contacts and social skills
- Experience in publication is an advantage
- Very good in written and spoken English
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- With 3 to 5 years experience as proof reader in a known publication
- Must be extremely good in written English particularly British English
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- Can deal with all types of people
- Good in oral and written communications

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

- Male or female not over 30 years old
- Graduate of Industrial Engineering
- With or without experience

Interested applicants may apply in person bringing along up-to-date resumé and recent photo to:

ORIENTAL TIN CAN & METAL SHEET MFG.
Human Resources Department
No. 64 Gen. Luis St., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon
Novaliches, Quezon City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

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- Male or female
- Electrical Engineering graduate
- Experience in Electrical and Cable products
- Experience in Marketing and Sales preferable
- Not more than 30 years old

INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN

- Male
- Electronics / Instrumentation graduate
- Experience an advantage
- Not more than 28 years old

Resumés may be emailed to **plsi@pldt.dsl.net** or faxed to 892-09-49.

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HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC.

Incorporated in 1988, Huawei Technologies is a private high-tech enterprise headquartered in Shenzhen, China. Huawei is a leader in providing customized products and solutions to telecommunications operators around the world. Our range of communications network solutions includes wireless, fixed line, optical, datacom, applications and software, handsets and wireless terminals. Having deployed products to more than 300 operators in over 100 countries globally, we take in pride in knowing that we serve 28 of the world's top 50 operators.

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Main Responsibilities

- Understanding customer requirements and feedback on market information;
- Being involved in all activities to ensure the establishment of the brand;
- Discovering sales opportunities and achieving sales targets in cooperation with the pre-sales team;
- Being responsible for credit collection with finance team.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications, Electrical, Computer Science or related area. MBA preferred;
- Minimum two years working experience in telecommunication field;
- Familiarity with international trade, international law, business management knowledge, credit collection, finance management, and bidding procedure, etc.;
- Excellent verbal and written English;
- Fluency in mandarin would be an added advantage.

2. Project Finance Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Being responsible for analyzing financing markets, financial status and financing requirements of clients;
- Designing and monitoring project financing proposals for clients;
- Being involved in all activities regarding analysis of market information and project financing risks in order to be able to offer effective references for market decision-maker;
- Being responsible for credit collection from clients.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above in International Finance, Trade, Insurance or related areas;
- Minimum two years working experience in Project Finance in Telecommunications, Capital Construction, Structural Trade, Investment Banking or related fields;
- Knowledge of Philippine laws and business management will be an added advantage;
- Excellent verbal and written English;
- Good communication skills;
- A team player and able to work well in a fast-paced, changing environment.

3. HR Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Taking charge of recruitment tasks such as job advertising, resume screening, organizing various tests and interviews with job applicants;
- Documenting and filing of employee data and relevant info;
- Being responsible for employee payroll, various allowances and benefits;
- Managing staff canteen and dormitories;
- Monitoring and supervising employees regarding punctuality, attendance, dress code, working attitudes, business ethics and office environment.

Requirements

- Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Human Resources Management, Psychology, or Behavioral Science;
- Minimum 2-3 years working experience in human resources management;
- Familiar with local labor code or HR related laws;
- Experience in managing employee benefits, accident and health insurance;
- Good communication and interpersonal skills;
- Strong sense of confidentiality and business ethics;
- Knowledge of mandarin will be an added advantage.

4. IT Engineer

Main Responsibilities

- Maintaining a good overview of the day-to-day operational demands and routine operations and facilitating the interface with end users to smoothen the entire Helpdesk and PC Support operations;
- Providing support to new program implementations;
- Dealing with Network/System/Database Admin or equivalent issues;
- Diagnosing, troubleshooting, assembling and solving computer/laptop related problems involving of hardware and software;
- Handling Server/Storage, Networking administration and configuration;
- Documenting network procedures.

Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology, Computer Science or equivalent;
- Minimum two years working experience in the similar functions;
- Specializing in IT/Computer – Network/System/Database Admin/Anti virus programs or equivalent;
- Familiar with TCP/IP, Win 2000 Server/Storage, Networking administration and configuration;
- Familiar with Helpdesk and PC Support operations;
- Committed, responsible and customer-oriented.

5. Product Manager/Engineer (GSM/CDMA/3G)

Main Responsibilities:

- Working with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats;
- Supporting GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstrating to customers in Asia Pacific Region;
- Working closely with sales team to plan and design a competitive mobile network solutions;
- Marketing of Huawei GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CEMA/3G products, including network concepts and solutions;
- Supporting GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G product promotion related activities.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications or related field of study:
- Minimum two years experience in the GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G environment;
- Solid technical background in telecommunications network and mobile network;
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G network;
- Good planning and business presentation skills, and able to work well in fast-paced, changing environment;
- Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage;
- New graduates with good records are encouraged to apply.

6. Product Manager/Engineer (Fixed Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Working with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats;
- Supporting NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstrating to customers in Asia Pacific Region;
- Working closely with sales team to plan and design a competitive fixed network solutions;
- Marketing of Huawei NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH products, including network concepts and solutions;
- Supporting NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH product promotion related activities.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Telecommunications or related field of study;
- Minimum two years experience in the NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH environment;
- Solid technical background in telecommunications network and fixed network;
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH network;
- Good planning and business presentation skills, and able to work well in fast-paced changing environment;
- Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage;
- New graduates with good records are encouraged to apply.

7. Product Manager/Engineer (Optical Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Working with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats;
- Supporting Optical Network Product pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstrating to customers in Asia Pacific Region;
- Working closely with sales team to plan and design a competitive Optical network solutions;
- Marketing of Huawei Optical Network products, including network concepts and solutions;
- Supporting Optical Network product promotion related activities.

Requirements:

- Bachelor or Higher degree in Telecommunications or related field of study; Basic SDH&WDM knowledge;
- Minimum two years experience in the Optical Network environment;
- Solid technical background in telecommunications network and Transmission network;
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on Transmission network;
- Good planning and business presentation skills, and able to work well in fast-paced changing environment;
- Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage;
- New graduates with good records are encouraged to apply.

8. GSM/CDMA/3G Marketing or Technical Support Engineer

Main Responsibilities

- Planning and implementing pre-sales marketing activities such as market exploration and promotion, or post-sales project implementation and technical support for GSM/CDMA/3G such as on-site survey, installation, commissioning and maintenance;
- Providing post-sales technical support to customers through remote and on-site trouble-shooting;
- Providing technical solution and hands-on support on GSM/CDMA/3G.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Telecommunications, Electronics, Electrical, or related area;
- Minimum one year experience in dealing with mobile communication network;
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on GSM/GPRS/CDMA network engineering;
- Good communication skills;
- A team player and able to work well in a fast-paced, changing environment.

9. Project Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Planning and supervision of surveying, installing, testing, commissioning, material and logistics forwarding including.delivering equipment to site;
- General controlling over engineering activities including exchanging of plans, drawings and other information with customers, approval of equipment layouts and network configuration data;
- Supervising and control over sub-contractors to strictly comply with the relevant conditions of the contract;
- Participating in bidding activities, identifying implementation requirements from tender documents, planning resources and budget as well as making out solutions for customer implementation demands and undertaking procurement management when necessary.

Requirements

- Minimum two years working experience in telecommunication project management;
- Bachelor's Degree in Telecommunication Engineering or Electronics Engineering.

10. Radio Network Planning & Radio Network Optimization Engineer

Main Responsibilities

- Be responsible for 2G&3G radio network design and radio network performance improvement service delivery;
- Be responsible for technical marketing and sales support of network and technology consulting services;
- Be responsible for radio network evaluation, network parameters design and optimization.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above in Electronics, Telecommunications Engineering, or related field of study;
- Fluent in both spoken and written English;
- At least 2 years working experience in GSM or CDMA, WCDMA is preferred;
- Ability to work independently and to build up good customer relations;
- Good communication skills and ability to work in multi-cultural environment;
- Self-motivated, customer oriented.

11. Technical Support Engineer (Switch & Access Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Performing technical support such as on-site survey, installation, commissioning and maintenance with excellent customer service skills;
- Implementing operation & maintenance solutions on time and effectively to fulfill customers' requirements and solve technical issues;
- Constructing and maintaining up-to-date network information to ensure accurate and sufficient database for maintenance & troubleshooting.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Telecommunications, Electronics, Electrical, or related area;
- Minimum two years working experience in related systems engineering and network design in the telecommunications and/or data communication environment;
- Experience in both service provider and telecommunication equipment vendor environment preferred;
- Able to work well in a fast-paced, changing environment.

12. Application and Software Engineer (A&S)

Main Responsibilities:

- Being responsible for IN (Intelligent Network) project implementation, which includes installation and testing;
- Being responsible for Intelligent Network routine maintenance;
- Being responsible for SMS (Short Message System), MMS and other Data Services project implementation, which includes installation and testing;
- Being responsible for Data Services routine maintenance;
- Being responsible for A&S related technical activities.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Computer Science, Telecommunications Engineering or related area;
- Minimum one-year working experience in telecom industry;
- At least one-year practical experience in Unix, working experience in HP-UX, SUN-OS, IBM-AIX;
- Knowledgeable in telecommunication and CCS7 system;
- Knowledgeable in Database systems, work experience in Informix, Oracle, Sybase;
- Ability to work independently and to build up good customer relations;
- Good Communication skills and ability to work in a team;
- Self-motivated, flexible, enthusiastic and fluent in both oral and written English;
- Must be ready to work under pressure in all kinds of working environments;
- Below 28 years old.

13. Bidding Design Engineer

Main Responsibilities:

- Completing overseas project survey design by making use of engineering design platform;
- Providing bidding support to overseas projects with respect to survey design and ensuring smooth engineering survey and construction;
- Assisting in collecting and sorting out information about engineering design, timely reporting on various investigational data and providing fundamental basis for the perfection of project bidding and design information system.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Electronics, Electrical, Telecommunications, Computer or related area;
- Minimum three years experience in related systems and project engineering in the telecommunications environment;
- Experience in both service provider and equipment vendor environment preferred;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Frequent business travels in the Asia Pacific region will be required;
- Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage.

14. Outsourcing Product Manager

Main Responsibilities:

- Supporting project bidding and post-bidding technical clarifications;
- Cooperating with project group during bidding period such as preparing bidding documents, SOC, giving technical suggestions, and choosing suppliers for clients;
- Frequent traveling around Southeast Asia region to communicate with suppliers and clients;
- Clarifying technical aspects with clients such as change of product configuration, number of units and quotations after winning a bid.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, preferably with an MBA, with relevant experience of not less than one year in Telecom industry or any technical/engineering fields;
- Have basic telecom knowledge, especially on fixed and mobile Network as well as 3G;
- Have knowledge and experience of telecom correlative equipment (Microwave, PCM, Equipment Room Power Supply, Test Tools, Optical Fiber Cable and Copper Cable, Shelters, Fire Suppression/detection, Air Conditioning Systems, etc.);
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Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is an international non-profit, non political and non-sectarian child development agency that operates in over 30 countries. It has been working in the Philippines for over thirty years now implementing programs in the areas of basic education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, micro-enterprise development and emergency programs. In partnership with 49 community-based organizations, CCF Philippines assists more than 216,000 children and their families.

It is currently seeking development professional to take on the role of a **Policy Operations and Research Officer** The overall responsibility is to lead the research and documentation efforts of the Country Office and to establish a monitoring and evaluation system that captures results of program interventions.

Reporting to the Program Manager, the successful candidate will be part of the country office's technical support team, combining both strategic & hands-on skills to build on CCF's strong track record and commitment to addressing child poverty in the Philippines.

The successful candidate must have the following qualifications:

University Degree in relevant course
At least three to five years experience as a development professional with strong exposure/involvement in research and development, program planning implementation, monitoring and evaluation
Demonstrated high level of interpersonal and cross-cultural skills
Can work with minimal supervision and perform effectively under pressure
Work experience in community based programs/projects
Excellent oral and written communication skills
A good grasp of children's issues at national and global levels a distinct advantage

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated according to qualifications & experience

Interested applicants may send their application letter addressing the position criteria outlined here together with detailed Curriculum Vitae with 3 references & contact details to ccfipo@ccfphilippines.org.ph or ccfipo@pldtdsl.net not later than February 28, 2006. Applications can also be posted to CCF Philippines Office, 8th Floor Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we shall contact shortlisted applicants only.

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LPI201: Advanced Linux Systems Administration *- a compilation of advanced topics required by a Linux Administrator. This discusses the kernel components, compiling a kernel, customizing a kernel and patching.*

LPI202: Advanced Linux Network Administration *- securing these network services and implementing network intrusion detection applications. Responsible for the server security planning, implementation, and maintenance of network servers and who wish to learn skills on Linux System and Network Security*

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DBMS200: PostgreSQL Administration

COURSE	FEBRUARY	MARCH
LPI101	6-10 20-24 27-Mar 3	13-17 27-31
LPI102	27 Mar 3	6-10 20-24
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Samba	25	4 / 25
Squid		27-31 (6-9pm)
MySQL	27-Mar 3	13-17
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MARKETING ASSISTANTS / BRAND OFFICERS

Can write/do it all to assist in Marketing, Sales, Advertising, Promotions, public relations, research, copy/creative writing, etc. with minimum supervision. Must be a natural hyperactive human between 264 to 312 full moons, taller than 66 inches with 2 to 3 yrs. working experience in a marketing environment. Must love the GOOD LIFE. A real go-getter when it comes to work. In 7 simple words, JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF SOME. Free to travel abroad Willing to work long hours when required.

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College Graduate with at least 3 years experience in sales of music and children CDs To sell/license production music libraries to Radio/TV Stations, Film Production Companies, Ad Agencies, Jingle Producers and other corporate clients. Direct contact and dealings with the top music chains (Tower Records, ODC, M1 etc.) an advantage. Between 25-30 years old.

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How can you become more resilient at work?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I REMEMBER when work was really easy. These days everything seems like it's a pain. The problem is that I feel like I'm becoming less resilient. Any thoughts on how I can become better able to handle all the garbage at work?

Breaking Not Bending

One of my dad's proudest moments occurred shortly when he had most of his stomach removed because of an ulcer. His doctor told him that he needed to quit drinking, so my dad went out and proudly downed 13 Manhattans.

My dad enjoyed 86 years of drinking and smoking. So when I think of resilient, I think of him. My dad was born with his resilience, but the good news is that we can all learn how to be more resilient. I've listed some strategies below. For more, check out Maddi and Khoshaba's book, "Resilience at Work" (Amacom, 2005). The book is based on a 12-year study of Illinois Bell Telephone employees during a time when the company was downsized by almost half.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Are you committed? There is more resilience when a job warrants full attention, imagination and effort. It is easy to be committed to a job you love. It's more challenging to commit to a job that has challenging bosses, colleagues or customers. I'm not saying that you need to love something you dislike, simply that as long as you remain in a job it makes sense to try to make the best of it.

Do you feel a sense of control? Many people write to me about jobs that make them feel totally powerless. Some jobs will do that to you. But there are often opportunities to gain some small sense of control by serving on a task force, agreeing to tackle a difficult problem, etc. There are often opportunities to assert yourself but you usually have to go looking for them, they won't come looking for you.

Do you accept challenges? Often the bigger the challenge, the more room you'll have for mistakes and failures. So I always would gravitate to the really tough problems, figuring that I'd get a longer leash for agreeing to tackle them. That said, I'm not big on suicide missions. But often, if you look hard enough you just may find situations where a particular assignment isn't as tough as people make it out to be.

Do you have allies? I'm a big believer in having people watch my back at work. How can you make this happen? Start watching other people's backs. It's amazing how many people will repay your support by looking out for you.

Do you maintain a sense of humor? I'm not suggesting that everyone should be a stand up comic. But I do believe that everyone should be able to laugh at themselves, your coworkers, your boss and your company. A sense of humor is the most important tool that I've found for overcoming the workplace blahs.

Follow these tips and you might not live any longer, but at least you'll probably die with a smile on your face.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

'I don't have experience managing organizational communications'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I USED TO WRITE FOR A MAgazine, a part of my career that I enjoyed very much. Due to the increased financial needs of my family, I decided to join the corporate world. I have been assigned as a communications specialist to take care of organizational communications, working as a team with a layout artist and photographer. My problem is I don't have the experience or exposure to organizational communications. My experience is in writing and teaching high school students.

What do you suggest I do? What books can I read that would give me some ideas? I am scheduled to present next week to my boss who is asking me for "some kind of a plan" and budget for our small unit.

Challenged Specialist

Congratulations on your new job! You are in a state of transition and it is understandable why you feel some anxiety about the requirements of the new job. You have the skills of writing and teaching, two vital competencies needed for successful organizational communications. Effective organizational communications require the ability to express oneself. However, these are foundational skills and you still need to acquire the ability to plan, program and implement organizational communications initiatives.

The first step is for you and your teammate to engage in a kind of assessment. Interview the key people and leaders in your organization about their expectations of your unit. From their perspective, what would they consider as key result areas for the function? Clarify their expectations and performance standards.

Then, undertake key stakeholder analysis or to use a communication term, audience analysis. As a group, identify your key audiences or stakeholders. Of each of the stakeholders, identify the current situation in terms of how the stakeholder group may be feeling or thinking, then identify the idealized future state for the stakeholder again in terms of thinking and feeling. Feeling is important because frequently it is the feeling factor if neglected that can cause future problems.

Then, study the gap between the current and future states and develop the action plans to close the gap. You may also consider the basic positioning you want to take towards the particular audience. Based on your purposes, you can choose to be reactive, proactive and interactive.

Then you can move on to the next step, you can develop your communications plan. Per relevant audience, develop the appropriate messages, the media, means and techniques to execute your action plans.

There are two trends that I want you recognize to create more impact in organizational communications. One is the fact that visual communications is superior to memos or directives. Someone once said, a picture is worth a thousand words. People today are more visual than in the past. They are barraged by television, the Internet and electronic games. The challenge is for you is how to call their attention given all these stimuli in their environment. The other is to use stories to convey messages so that they become memorable and meaningful.

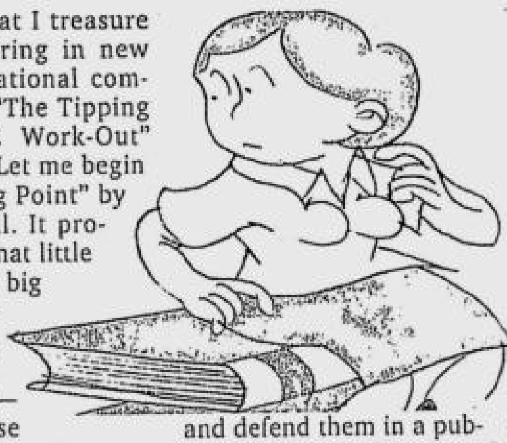

ILLUSTRATION BY: DIONISIO BUCCAT

Three books that I treasure most that may bring in new ideas on organizational communications are "The Tipping Point," "The GE Work-Out" and "Simplicity." Let me begin with "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell. It proposes the theory that little things can make a big difference. He likened communications that "tip" to epidemics—they occur because of the extraordinary efforts of a few select carriers. Tipping also happens when something happens to transform the epidemic agent itself. He names these people as connectors, mavens and owners. Knowing these key people in your organization will enable you to quickly disseminate information.

"GE Work Out" by Dave Ulrich and the other writers of the book demonstrate how to implement GE's revolutionary method of busting bureaucracy and attacking organizational problems. This book gives you an idea how you can generate greater productivity and empowerment within the organization. It teaches techniques like brainstorming and town hall meetings to generate ideas, present and defend them in a public forum and to facilitate quick decisions by superiors.

Finally a book by Bill Jensen, entitled "Simplicity: The New Competitive Advantage." It talks about simplicity, how to remove the clutter from communications and how to simplify work. He says that in a world of more, better and faster simplicity works.

Hope you find the books. Enjoy the challenging world of organizational communications.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. E-mail feedback at advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or call tel. nos. 892-2895. 892-2896 or 892-2898.)*

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REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

Incurable lepers

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

MY REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ANOTHER KIND OF LEProsy—that which doesn't show on the skin but corrupts us nonetheless. Its symptoms are bad habits, ingratitude, conceit, insensitivity to others' feelings, etc. All of us, in varying degrees, have this kind of leprosy within us.

In today's story, Jesus, "moved with pity," gives the healing touch to lepers and literally cleanses and makes them whole again just by willing it. This healer's image reminds me of "Mr. G," a certain manager I had worked with in the past who was so generous it seemed he would die if he could not give—and forgive.

Mr. G wasn't a "rich kid" born with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth, but somehow he had always something to dip into when people would come to him for financial assistance. And how they came, and asked, received, and took advantage of him! The driver, the clerks, the delivery boy, the secretary—all of them had in one way or the other benefited from his largesse. Also from his "amnesia" when it came to payments. Only the most conscientious would bother to pay him back in full. Yet Mr. G didn't seem to mind much, nor was he impoverished by the unpaid debts. This manager was so openhanded that the more pragmatic characters in the workplace would call him "*tanga*" (stupid) behind his back. But was he really stupid? Or was he inwardly inspired by the generosity of Jesus who just gave and gave and never minded if anyone thanked Him at all? Coworkers like Mr. G are a test of our integrity, which is most manifested during the eight hours we spend each day in the workplace. Are we greedy or grateful? Are we "clean" or would we rather be incurable lepers? (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

A Healing Boss

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

"FAST FOOD WORKER KILLS BOSS ..." SAYS A SUBTITLE OF A NEWS ITEM ON A NATIONAL PAPER last Feb. 4. This sad news makes me ask "What do workers expect from their boss, or anyone they consider their superior in work?" I suppose many would prefer a boss who is concerned not only of the work itself, the production output, the efficiency and effectiveness of the workers but also of the feelings and aspirations of the workers. They will certainly dream of an ideal superior who is like Jesus in today's Gospel, who is "moved with pity" and ready to "touch" everyone, and who strongly desires the workers' total welfare—including the healing of their psycho-spiritual hurts and satisfaction of all kinds of needs.

But the worker's expectations of his boss would spring from his values in life and his understanding of what are important in life. The worker who considers smooth interpersonal relationship more satisfying than the routine, machine-like transactions and task-oriented dealings in the workplace will most likely expect his boss to be more of a friend, a brother or even a father to him than just a task master or worse a slave-driver.

When such expectations are shared also by the supervisors, managers and even owners of the company, business and the workplace would be more homey and more human. The management which accepts Jesus, His teachings and examples as important elements in its corporate mission and culture will have bosses who, like Jesus, are "healers," who would manage in ways that everyone may "be made clean" or healed—experience authentic joy, harmony and peace. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@sky inet.net)

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- with pleasing personality (preferably attractive)
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- Good sales skills, dynamic, willing to be trained, work underpressure

Electronics Technician (Callcenter Headsets & Office Automation)

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Senior Accounting Assistant

Responsibilities

The position undertakes a variety of specialized clerical accounting duties: carries out administrative functions, as required; maintains and updates accounting records; maintains sound accounting/internal controls; prepares accounting and other reports; and as relevant, contributes towards the preparation of financial statements. Specific responsibilities include:

- contributing in the preparation of financial statements, accounting and other reports, as required under the supervision of a senior local staff, ensuring reported amounts are consistent with control accounts and that they are produced in a timely and accurate manner; ensuring that accounting reports are according to generally accepted accounting principles particularly in relation to investments, borrowings, and derivative transactions.
- reviewing and identifying computer requirements for effective and efficient operation; ensuring the accuracy and reliability of systems; initiating changes to existing systems and coordinating the needs of the work area with Office of Information Systems and Technology through the coordinating officer in charge.
- maintaining and ensuring appropriate, adequate and timely controls in the preparation of accounting data, processing of transactions and preparation of reports; recommending changes and improvements to ensure that correct, complete and timely accounting records are maintained.
- preparing reconciliation of control and other accounts; undertaking initial investigation of discrepancies for review by supervising staff.
- preparing and posting accurate accounting journal entries in the system; reviewing and verifying the accuracy, consistency, validity, and completeness of supporting documents for all transactions to ensure compliance with accounting practices and established procedures and guidelines.
- coordinating and providing required information in a tactful manner and according to established procedures.
- performing any other assignments as required, including the preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisors' review.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Financial Control Specialist, Investments, Borrowings, and Bank Reconciliation Section (CTAC-IBR), Controller's Department (CTL).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a bachelor degree in business administration, major in accounting; a CPA qualification.
- at least five years experience in accounting in a computerized environment of a large organization with exposure to international capital markets.
- good understanding of international fixed income capital markets and products, including fixed income derivative products.
- good understanding of US accounting standards related to fixed income securities and derivative products and general accounting concepts and principles and their application.
- good understanding of the interactions between different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose, as well as business knowledge of the relevant areas.
- good knowledge of a large Accounting system and its interfaces with other systems and work areas.
- proficiency in MS Excel and MS Word, and accounting related software such as Oracle, and in the use of databases to extract, manipulate, and summarize data to generate various accounting reports.
- analytical, systematic and strong numerical skills and great attention to detail.
- excellent oral and written skills in English.
- good interpersonal skills and ability to be a strong team player.
- ability to plan schedules in order to meet deadlines.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-024(4)-CTAC-IBR** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **24 February 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

FT

FINANCIAL TIMES

The *Financial Times*, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, requires additional staff for its Manila accounts team. The ideal candidates should meet the attributes and formal skills enumerated below and must be able to start as soon as possible. Attractive remuneration package awaits those who will be hired.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Graduate of BS Accountancy with good scholastic records
- At least 3 years work experience in receivables/payables management and bank transactions (local and overseas) for a multinational company
- Adept in using Sun accounting system
- Well-versed in MS Office applications, specifically Intermediate Excel
- Excellent oral and written English skills, interpersonal skills and telephone etiquette
- Willing and able to work on variable shift schedule as required
- Responsible, motivated and can work with minimum supervision and as part of a team

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph to **The HR and Administration Manager** at the address below not later than February 17, 2006:

Financial Times Philippines
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Visit our website www.ft.com

SERAPH HOTEL

AN EXCLUSIVE AND NEWLY BUILT HOTEL IN BORACAY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING VACANT POSITIONS FOR OUR MANILA OFFICE:

SALES & MARKETING OFFICER (code:SMO)
RESERVATION OFFICER (code:RO)
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (code:AO)

QUALIFICATIONS & BENEFITS:

- 24-35 years of age
- 2-5 years work experience in a Hotel Industry or Travel Agency.
- COLLEGE GRADUATE with excellent communication skills
- For AO code, accounting major or business related course is a plus
- Salary is negotiable depending on job experience

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé and indicate the position code through this email address: seraph_boracay@yahoo.com.ph on or before 17 February 2006. Only short listed applicants will be scheduled for an interview.

A Dental Clinic in Alabang
is in need of:

DENTISTS

- Female, single, not over 30 years old
- Licensed Dentist, preferably a graduate of UE or UP
- Preferably a resident of Alabang, Parañaque or Laguna

Interested applicants must send their resumé with 2x2 photo to:

The Clinic Manager
Unit 4-C, Prudential Bank Bldg.
8414 Dr. A. Santos Ave.,
Parañaque City

Multinational Company Seeking

LADY MERCHANDISERS

- College graduate
- At least 5 years experience in furniture manufacturing / export
- Willing and able to travel to domestic and international destinations

Please mail latest photo & biodata to:
P.O. Box 3619 Makati Post Office

A multinational electronics manufacturing company is in urgent need of:

RF-ENGINEER

QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 3 years experience in the design and testing of high frequency equipment especially on low power devices.

HETRONIC ASIA
Interested applicants may send your resume to
E MAIL ADDRESS: sheila_m@pldtdsl.net or contact
Tel No. (049) 544-0003 to 05

ACROX

- A Japanese company is in need of 8 male or female personnel who can speak fluent **Nihonggo & English,** possesses good moral character, computer literate, and willing to go on shift.
- 1 Computer Engineer/Technician.

Send resumé through e-mail:
ecbeee@yahoo.com
not later than February 14, 2006

RETAIL SOFTWARE ASSOCIATES

Microsoft

We are a Microsoft partner with a top-notch management team credited with introducing and implementing the Microsoft Retail Management System to landmark companies in the Philippines. We are ready to drive the Philippine Retail industry to global parity and greater heights. We want you to join us! We are in need of:

Account Managers

- At least 2 years experience in selling POS solutions
- Good communication skills

Applications Consultants
Development Consultants/Programmers

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or related courses.
- With at least 2 years experience in the deployment (set-up, implementation, maintenance, documentation) of a POS System
- Certification(s) in Microsoft technology is an advantage
- Knowledge and experience in retail business operations is an advantage.

Please submit your application letter and updated resume with recent 2 x 2 photo to: MCPO Box 2793, Makati City 1267 Philippines or call RSA contact nos. 8872243. 8430571 loc 27

HARRIS MEMORIAL COLLEGE
G.K. Bunyi St. Brgy. Dolores Taytay Rizal, 1920

Urgently needs applicants for the following positions:

ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

- A BEED graduate for Elementary and BSE graduate major in History/P.E. for High School /LET passer
- Articulate in English
- Teaching experience (preferred)

COMPTROLLER

- Business Administration Graduate, Accounting major ; preferably CPA/MBA
- Expertise in computer-based accounting systems, MS Excel, and Word
- at least seven to ten years experience in supervising staff

BUSINESS OFFICE HEAD

- Business Administration Graduate, major in accounting / management
- at least two years experience in similar position
- has administrative supervisory experience

Apply personally at the address specified above. Bring your application letter and curriculum vitae with attached 2" x 2" color ID picture to the attention of Jeanie Teodoro, Personnel Officer.
Or send your resumé thru:
Email : jeanielynteodoro@yahoo.com
Mail : P.O Box 103 Q. Plaza, Cainta 1900

Don Bosco Technical Institute, a private Catholic educational institution is in need of individuals to fill in the position as:

1. HR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Female, 24-30 years old
- Possesses a bachelor's degree in Business Administration or
- Human Resources Management, with at least 6 units of Accounting subjects
- With one to two years experience in human resources administration and payroll work;
- Possesses a good communication and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate and must be proficient in Microsoft Excel
- Knowledge of Microsoft Access is desirable

2. ACCOUNTING STAFF

Qualifications:

- Female, 24-30 years old
- Graduate of Baccalaureate Program in Accounting
- CPA
- With one year work related experience
- With good communication and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate

Interested applicants should personally bring their comprehensive resumé, photocopy of transcript of records, diploma and professional ID to the:

Human Resource Office
Don Bosco Technical Institute
Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City (in front of Cityland Pasong Tamo)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

A local Petroleum Manufacturing firm
is in need of an

OPERATIONS MANAGER and ASST. OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Male/Female, 30 to 35 years old
- Licensed Mechanical/Chemical Engineer with at least 3 years experience in an industrial manufacturing company, with ISO-background
- Hardworking, organized, professional and can work under pressure
- Possess strong leadership skills, safety and pollution control oriented.

SEND COVER LETTER, RESUMÉ, 2x2 COLORED PICTURE AND OTHER CREDENTIALS TO:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 1170, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

A high-end Real Estate Development Company
is in need of a

DYNAMIC AND RESULTS-ORIENTED

SALES DIRECTOR

Candidates must possess the following qualifications:

1. Extensive experience in organizing and motivating a SALES ORGANIZATION
2. Excellent communication skills
3. Excellent interpersonal skills

A highly competitive compensation package awaits the qualified candidate.

Please send curriculum vitaé with latest 2x2 photo and cover letter to:

c/o Classified Ads Department
G/F Philippine Daily Inquirer Building
Mascardo St. cor Yague St., Chino Roces Avenue
Makati City

Our company is an international power generation firm.
It has projects in advanced development, under construction or operating in most parts of the world. We offer compensation package that is competitive in the energy industry. Currently, we are looking for a qualified candidate to assume the following position:

Accounting Supervisor

(NCR-Pasig City)

Minimum Qualifications:
Education: Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
CPA holder

Responsibilities:

- Financial (US GAAP) and International Accounting Standards) and Statutory Reporting
- Preparation/Review of Management Reports and other reportorial requirements of the BOI, SEC, project lenders and other stakeholders
- Preparation/Review of accounts analyses including implementation of new accounting standards
- Cash Management
- Coordination with Head Office and project owners as needed
- Other duties that may be assigned

Work experience:
Minimum of 3-4 years post qualification experience
Minimum of 2-3 years work experience in big accounting firms an advantage

Skills:

- Industry-related experience preferred
- Solid background in taxation, financial accounting systems and controls
- US GAAP reporting experience an advantage
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Flexible and responsive to multiple job demands
- Excellent team player and strong interpersonal skills with all levels of organization
- Good organizational skills
- Proficient in Microsoft software; knowledge of JD Edwards is a strong plus

Desired Attributes:
The successful candidate needs to be a hardworking, dependable, self-motivated, analytical and detail-oriented individual with good interpersonal skills. An excellent team player is a must.

Successful candidate can look forward to a career growth supported by training and seminars.

Please send a comprehensive resumé detailing work experience and educational attainment to:

The HR Department
Email address: rgorayeb@intergen.com

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Home of the finest European Bathrooms, Kitchens, & Tile collection

Adventure Import Export is a local distribution company of the finest European bathrooms, kitchens, and tile collection. With over 30 years in the interior finishing industry serving a wide variety of clientele in the upscale market, the Company has been established partners in helping builders build homes nationwide.

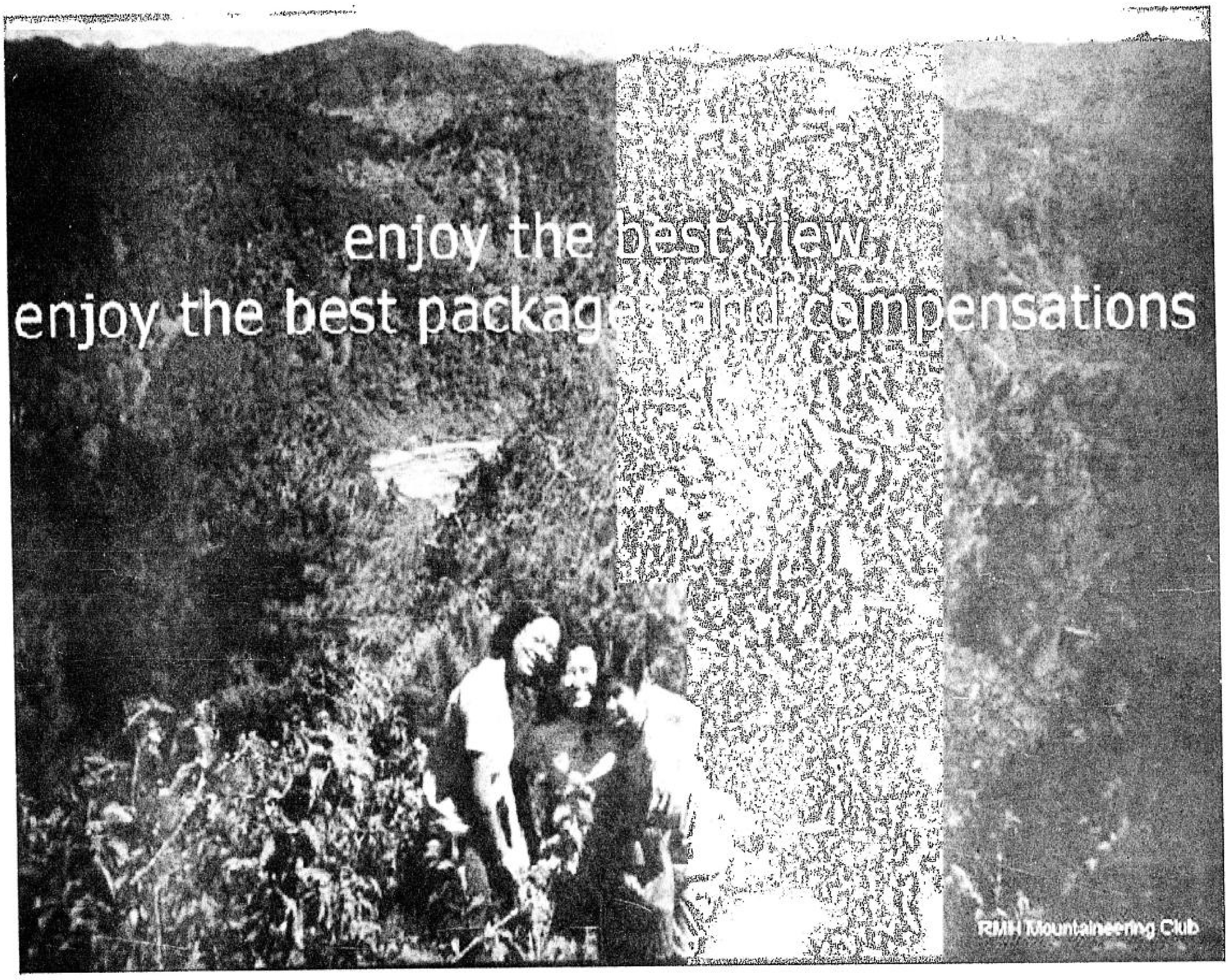
Sales Field Officer

This position shall be responsible in achieving sales objectives within a multi-product range. The position shall pursue sales leads, promote products, conclude orders, and arrange internal sales logistics.

The ideal candidates must have a Bachelor's degree with at least 2 years relevant experience in the areas of sales. Person must be highly motivated, aggressive, mobile, hardworking, and independent. Background in the interior finishing industry is an advantage while driving skills are required.

Interested parties may send their resumé at: **Adventure Import Export**, Ground Floor, #7-E UPY Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Marconi St., Makati City
Email at: **adventuremnl@yahoo.com** • Fax: (632) 831-6850

wanna see the view from the top?


enjoy the best view,
enjoy the best packages and compensations
RMH Mountaineering Club

NCO
GROUP
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We WANT 500 agents to join our team.

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981-7557 to 60 or
manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com
4th Floor ELJ Communications Tower, Mother Ignacia, QC

Customer Service Representatives
Directory Assistance Agents
Outbound Telemarketers Collections
Technical Support Representatives Level 1 & 2

Job Fair

- P15, 000 - P 18, 000 Salary
- P3, 000 Referral Bonus
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- Medical and Life Insurance
- and more

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

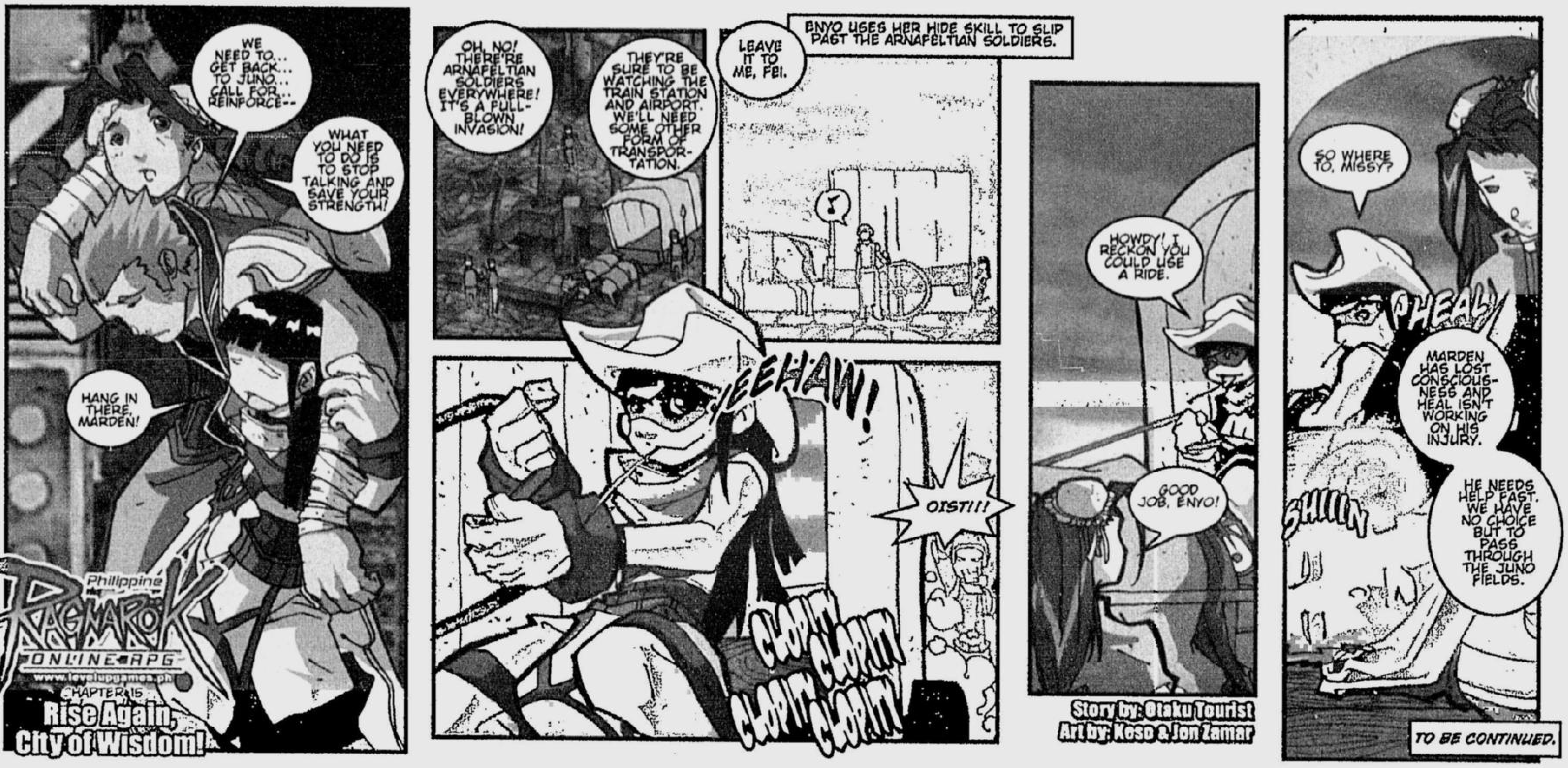
FEBRUARY 12, 2006

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

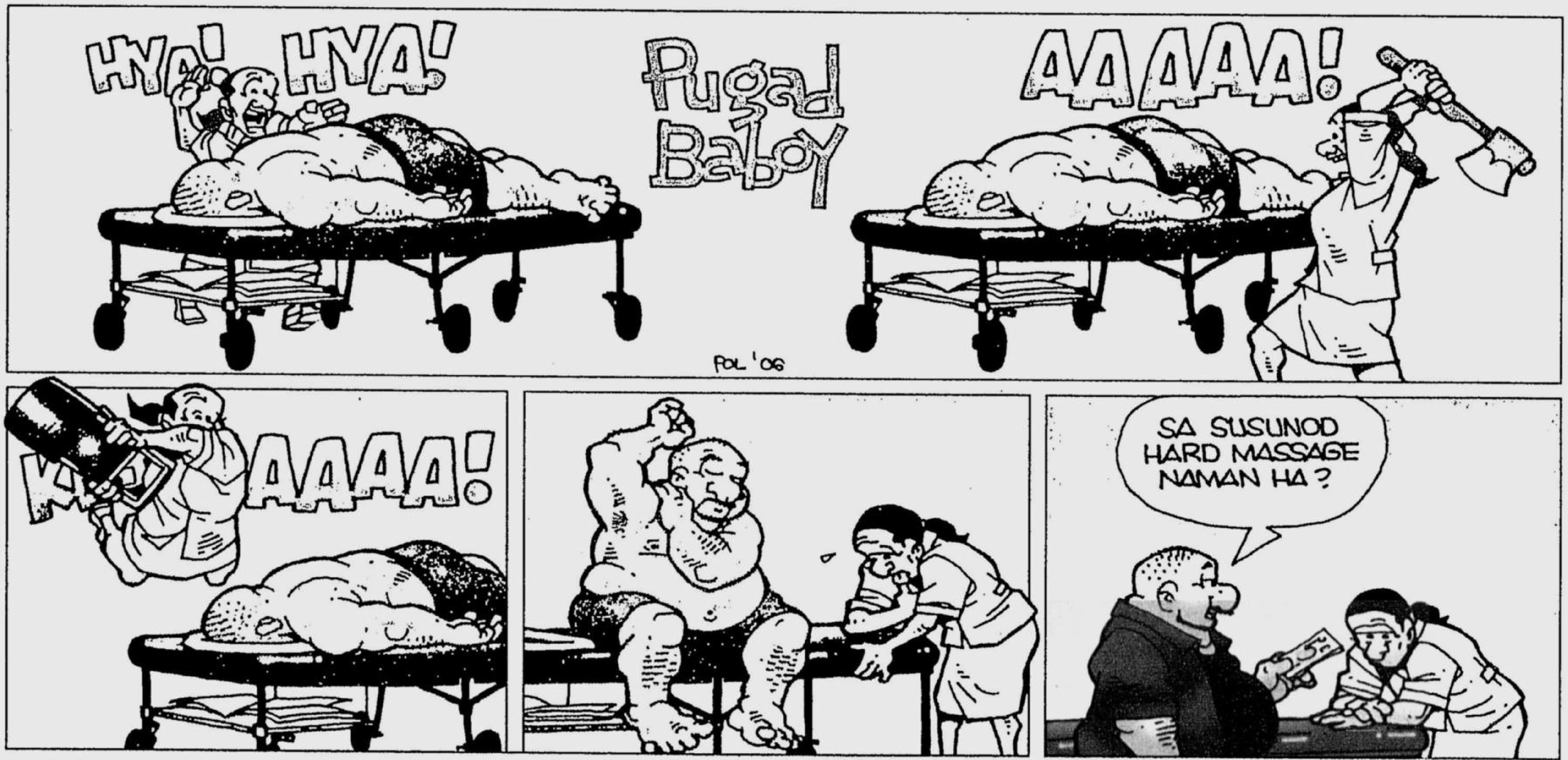
RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES


WE NEED TO... GET BACK... TO JUNO... CALL FOR... REINFORCE--
WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS TO STOP TALKING AND SAVE YOUR STRENGTH!
HANG IN THERE, MARDEN!
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 15
Rise Again, City of Wisdom!
OH, NO! THERE'RE ARNAFELTIAN SOLDIERS EVERYWHERE! IT'S A FULL-BLOWN INVASION!
THEY'RE SURE TO BE WATCHING THE TRAIN STATION AND AIRPORT. WE'LL NEED SOME OTHER FORM OF TRANSPORTATION.
LEAVE IT TO ME, FEI.
ENYO USES HER HIDE SKILL TO SLIP PAST THE ARNAFELTIAN SOLDIERS.
YEEHAW!
OIST!!!
CLOPITY CLOPITY CLOPITY CLOPITY
HOWDY! I RECKON YOU COULD USE A RIDE.
GOOD JOB, ENYO!
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: Keso & Jon Zamar
SO WHERE TO, MISSY?
HEAL
MARDEN HAS LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AND HEAL ISN'T WORKING ON HIS INJURY.
SHIIIN
HE NEEDS HELP FAST. WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PASS THROUGH THE JUNO FIELDS.
TO BE CONTINUED.

PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


HYA! HYA!
Pugad Baboy
AAAAA!
POL '06
KAAAAA!
SA SUSUNOD HARD MASSAGE NAMAN HA?

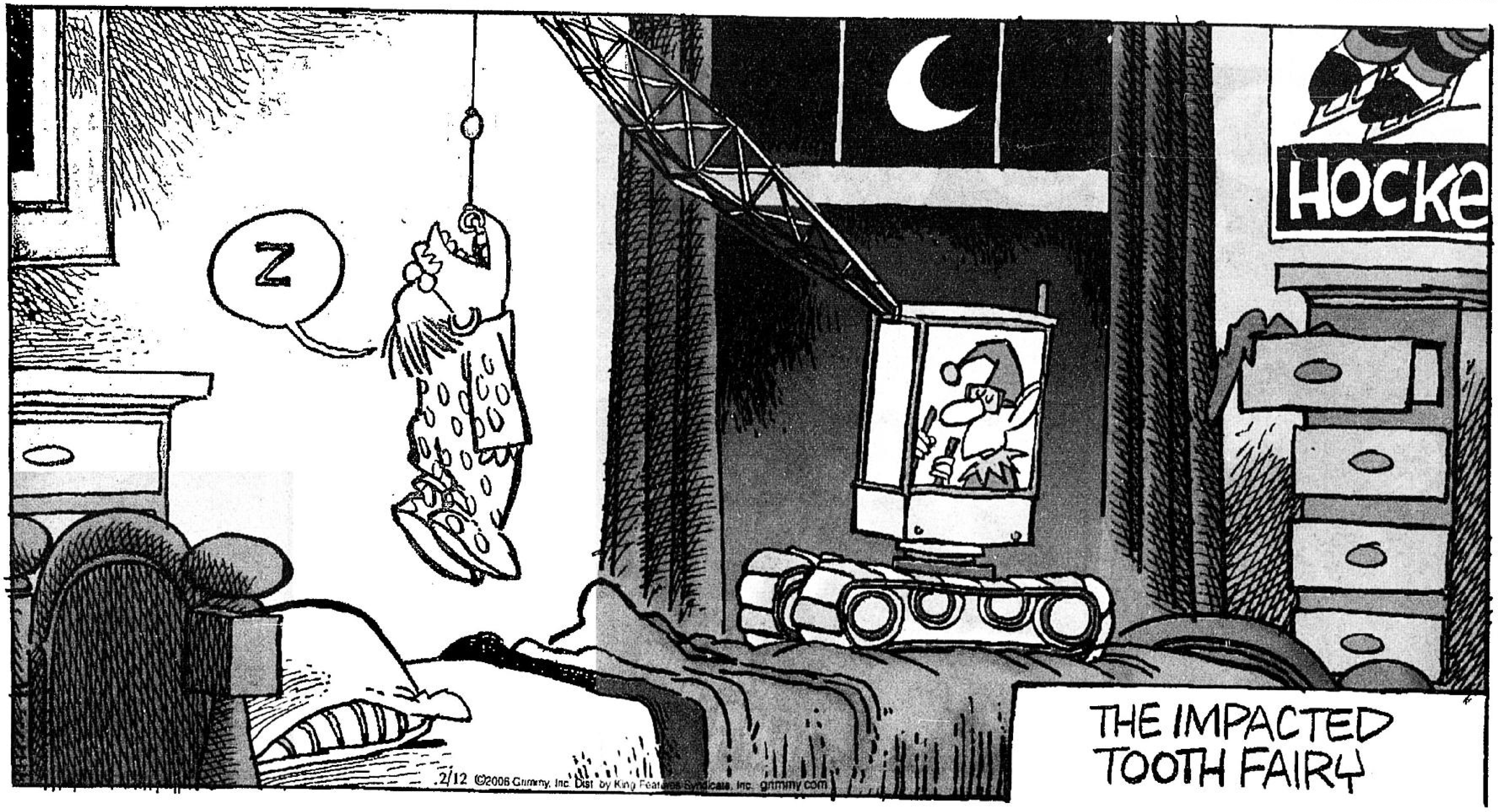
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COMICS STRIP? To better improve the Inquirer Comics Sunday section, we'd like to know what your favorite comic strips are:

① Choose your favorite comic strip among the current titles we have now: **a.**Ragnarok **b.**Moomoo hunters **c.**Garfield **d.**Mothergoose and Grimm **e.**Pugad Baboy **f.**Inday Wanda **g.**Zits **h.**Full House

② Text **inquirer life name/age/city/letter of your choice/reason for your answer** to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

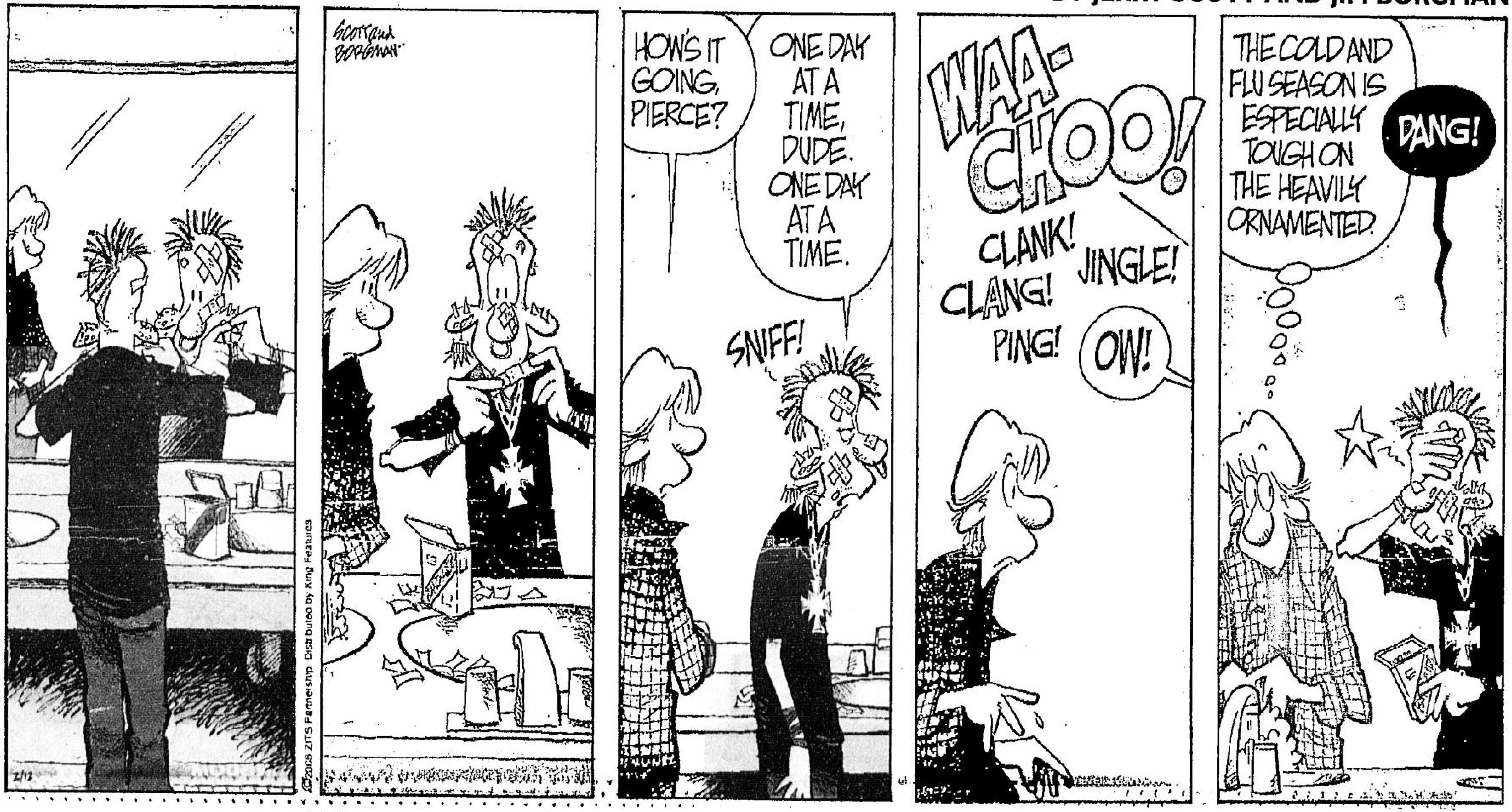
BY MIKE PETERS


Z
HOCKE
THE IMPACTED TOOTH FAIRY

2/12 ©2006 Grimmy, Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc. grimmy.com

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SCOTT AND BORGMAN
HOW'S IT GOING, PIERCE?
ONE DAY AT A TIME, DUDE. ONE DAY AT A TIME.
SNIFF!
WAA-CHOO!
CLANK!
CLANG!
JINGLE!
PING!
OW!
THE COLD AND FLU SEASON IS ESPECIALLY TOUGH ON THE HEAVILY ORNAMENTED.
DANG!

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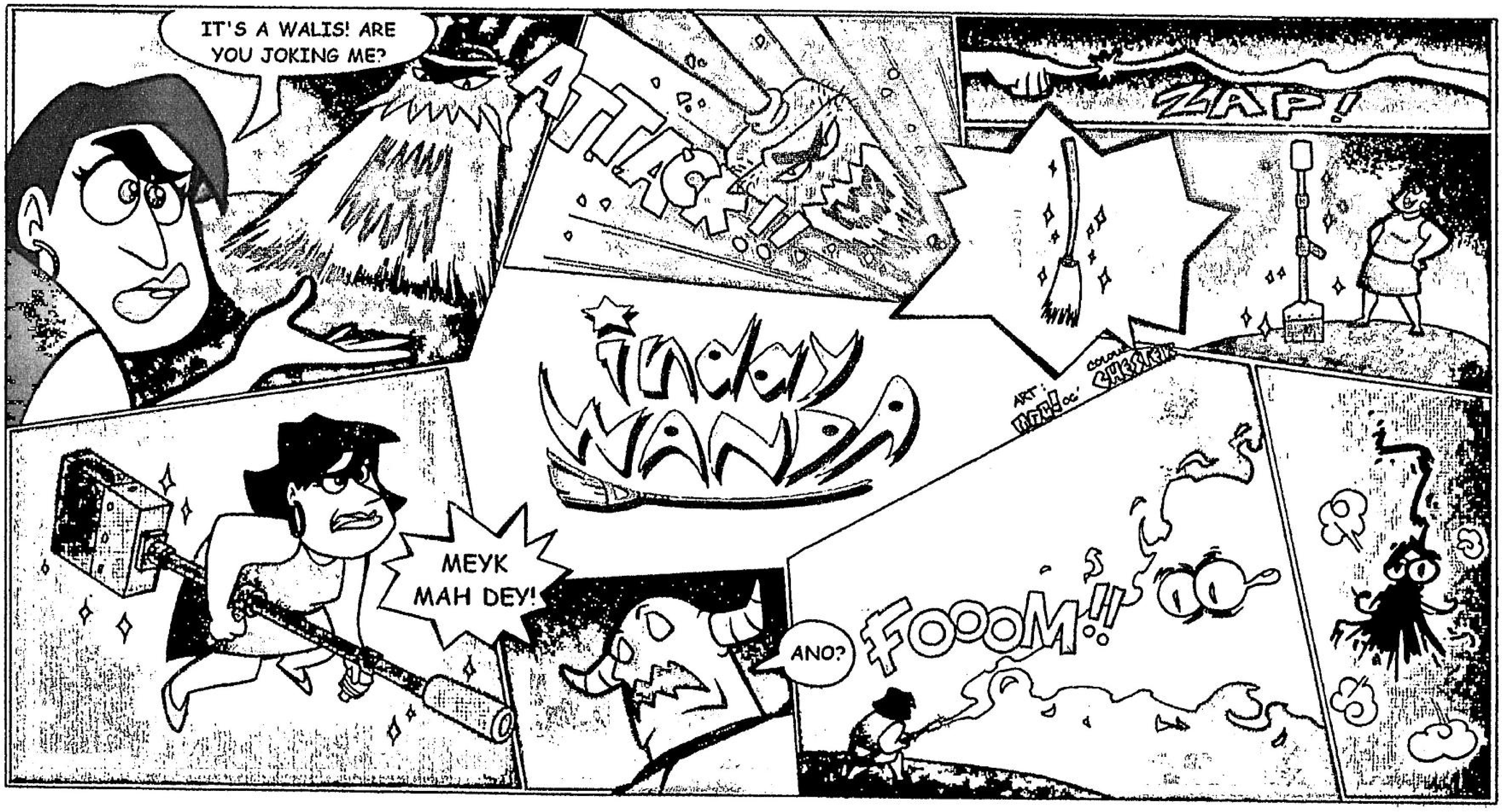
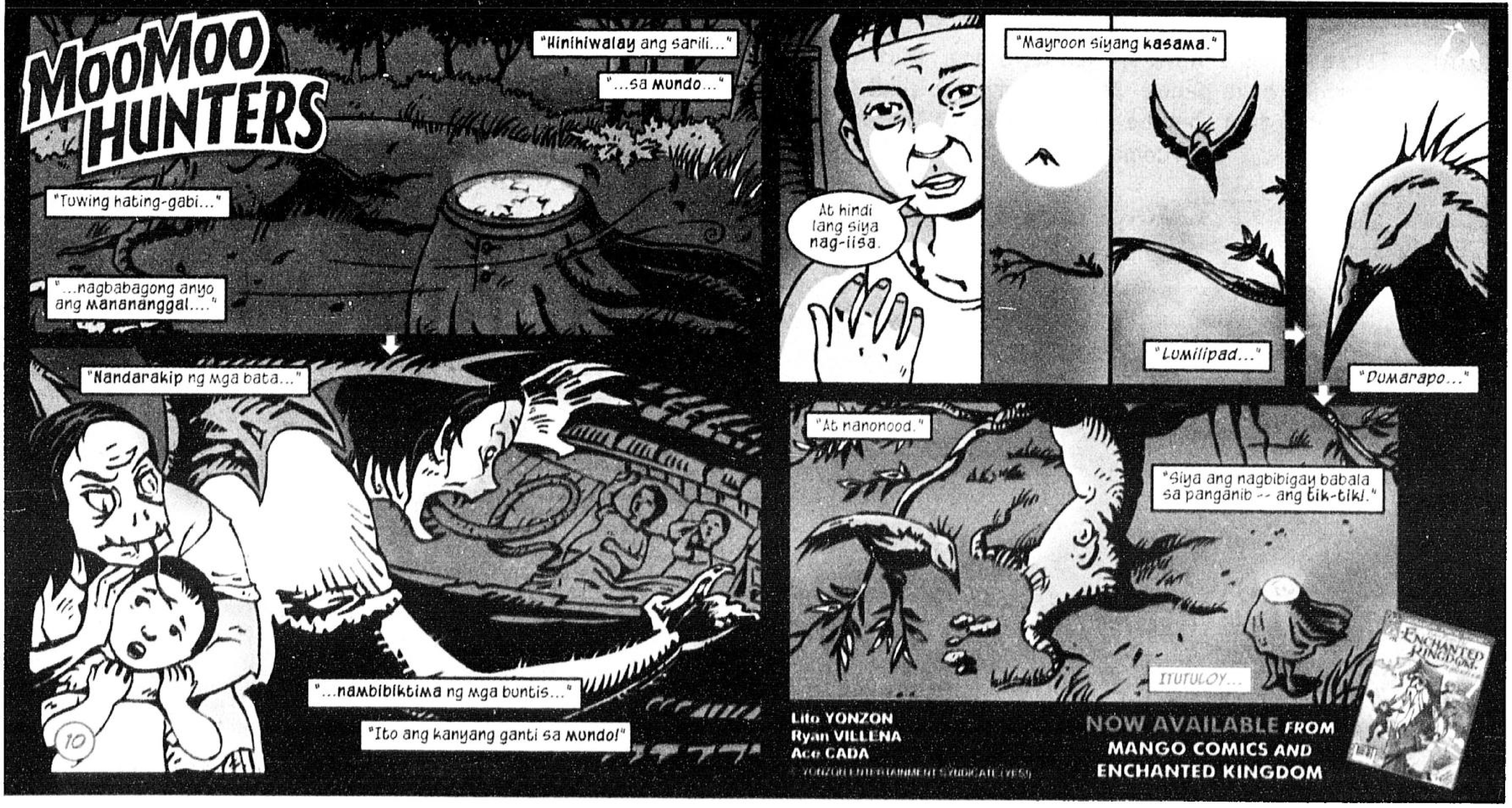
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


IT'S A WALIS! ARE YOU JOKING ME?
ATTACK!!!
ZAP!
Inday WANDA
ART: NFRH oc'
colour: CHESKRIK
MEYK MAH DEY!
ANO?
FOOOM!!

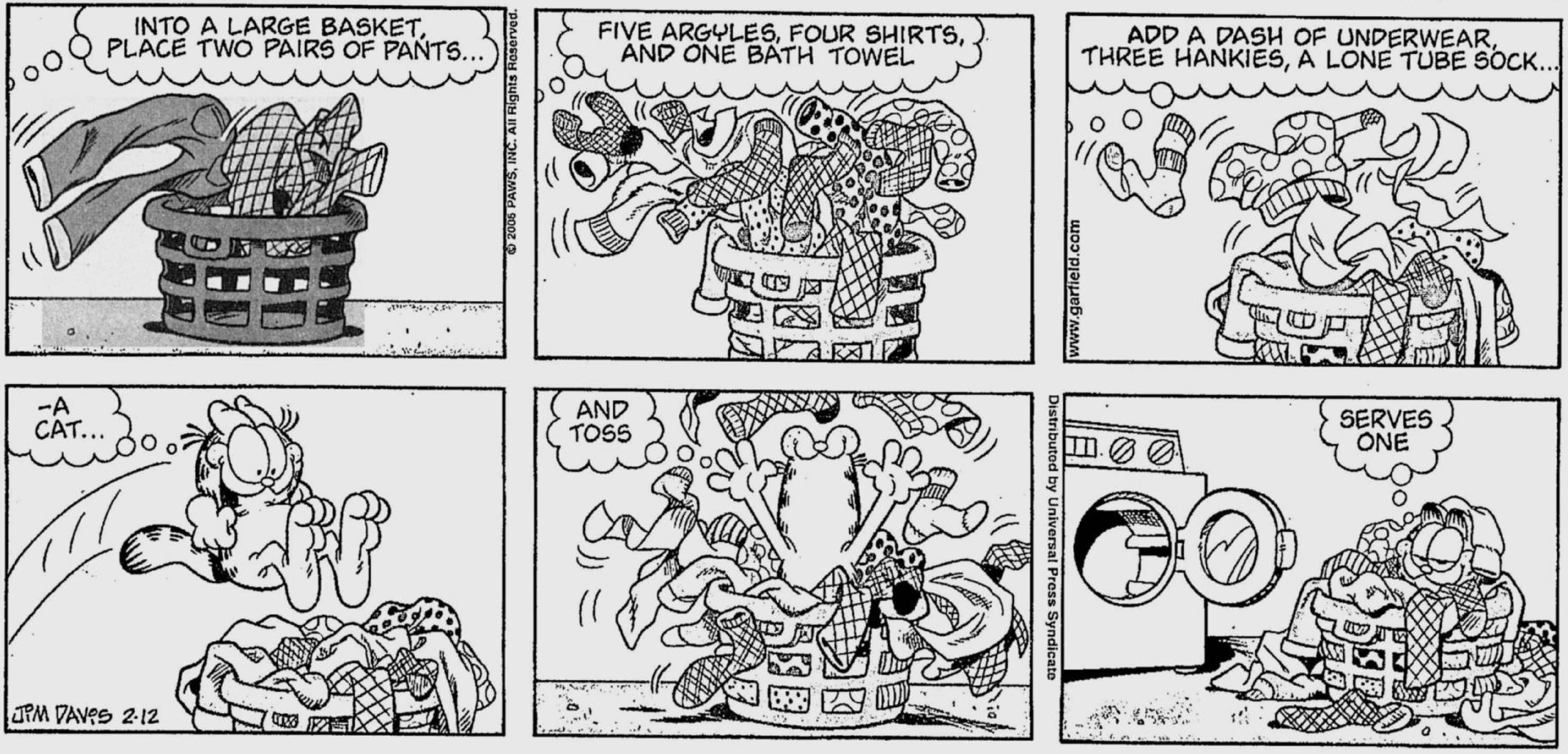
MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
"Hinihiwalay ang sarili..."
"...sa mundo..."
"Tuwing hating-gabi..."
"...nagbabagong anyo ang manananggal...."
"Nandarakip ng mga bata..."
"...nambibiktima ng mga buntis..."
"Ito ang kanyang ganti sa mundo!"
10
"Mayroon siyang kasama."
At hindi lang siya nag-iisa.
"Lumilipad..."
"Dumarapo..."
"At nanonood."
"Siya ang nagbibigay babala sa panganib -- ang tik-tik."
ITUTULOY...
Lito YONZON
Ryan VILLENA
Ace CADA
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES)
NOW AVAILABLE FROM MANGO COMICS AND ENCHANTED KINGDOM
ENCHANTED KINGDOM

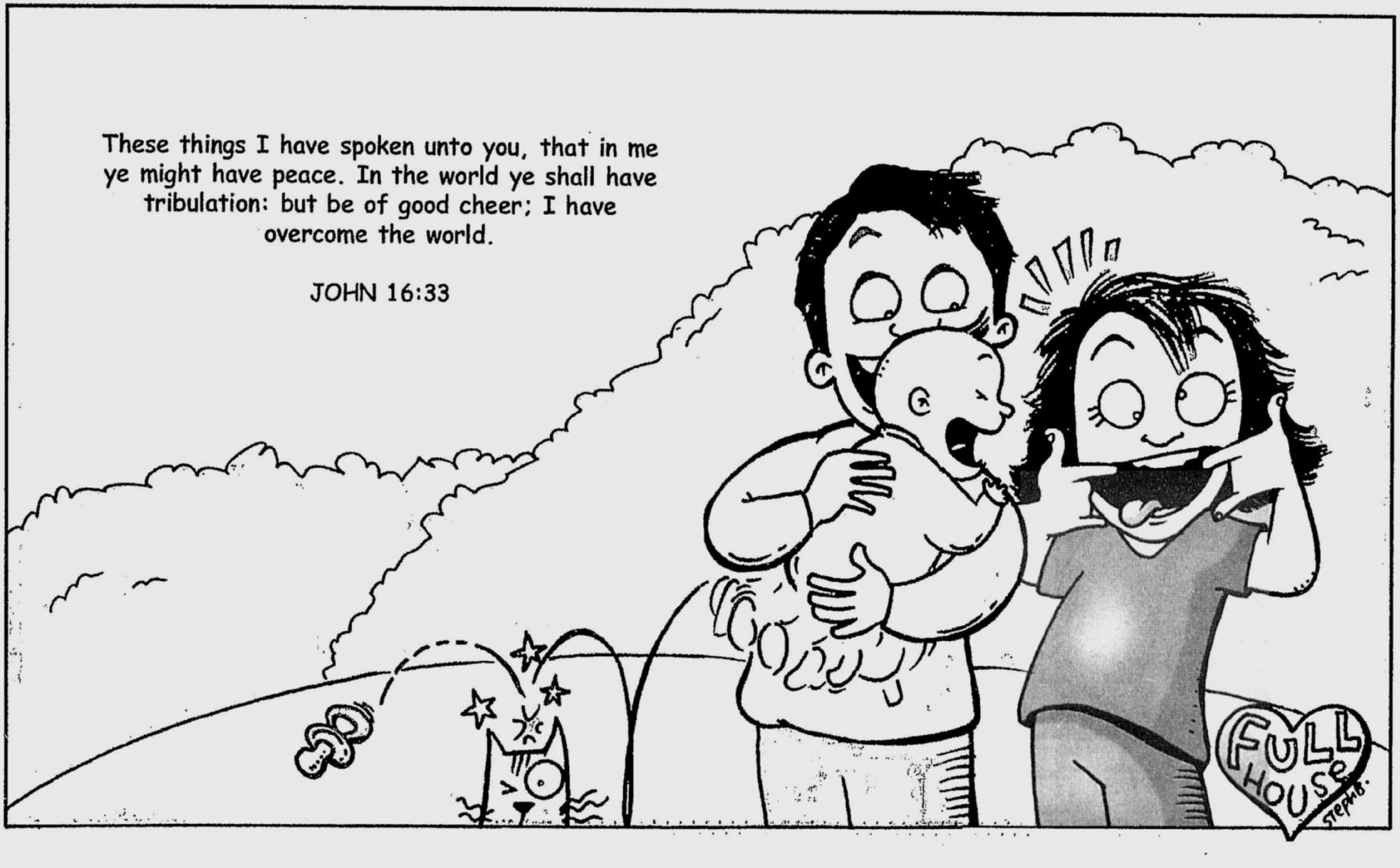
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


INTO A LARGE BASKET, PLACE TWO PAIRS OF PANTS...
© 2006 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
FIVE ARGYLES, FOUR SHIRTS, AND ONE BATH TOWEL
ADD A DASH OF UNDERWEAR, THREE HANKIES, A LONE TUBE SOCK...
www.garfield.com
–A CAT...
JIM DAVIS 2-12
AND TOSS
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
SERVES ONE

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

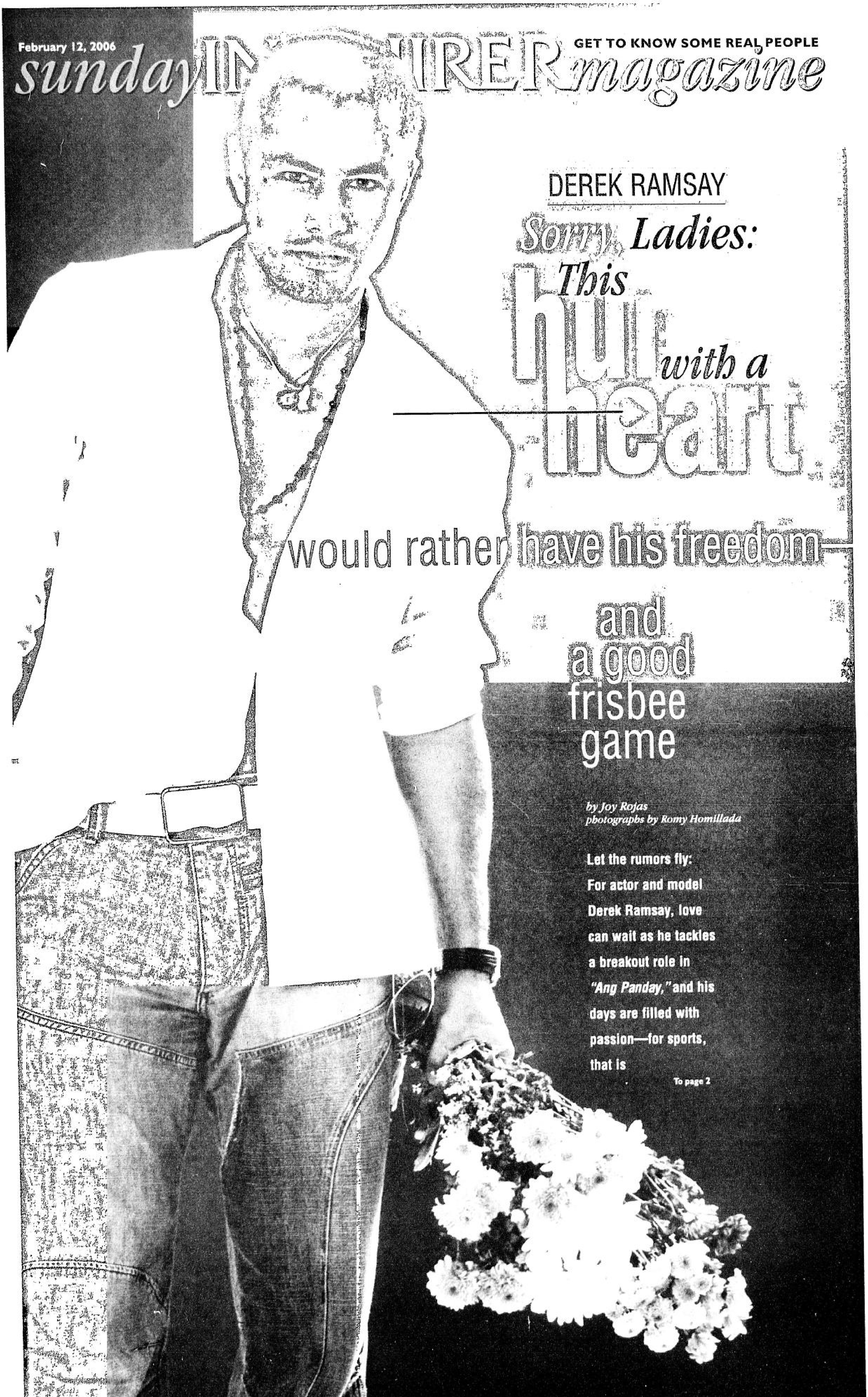
JOHN 16:33

FULL HOUSE
steph B.

February 12, 2006

sundayIN IRERmagazine

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



DEREK RAMSAY

Sorry, Ladies: This hu *with a* heart would rather have his freedom and a good frisbee game

by Joy Rojas
photographs by Romy Homillada

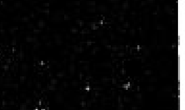
Let the rumors fly: For actor and model Derek Ramsay, love can wait as he tackles a breakout role in *"Ang Panday,"* and his days are filled with passion—for sports, that is

To page 2

A couple goes back to school, *p.3*

An enduring love story, *p.4*

Her dance of love, *p.8*



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Many Kings of One Language

It was a difficult time for the islands.
Most of the tribes wanted to go to the moon
but had to decide on which language.
This led to many violent deaths, the rape
of fabulous dreams, so that only the elders
slept at night, while the young people danced
to keep awake, twisting their bodies this way
and that accent. At the bars they ordered
syntax at random, drank wildly, all tongues
in abandon. The bolder ones expelled grammar
as they did the smoke from pidgin tobacco.
Phonemes were murdered in the dark, contractions
extended while the most personal of pronouns
were roped up and beaten to an antecedent's pulp.
Italics w ent out the window when phrases were written.
Nouns were emasculated, verbs cross-conjugated,
according to the dowry for protest. Divorce of lips
from hearts and homes forced the weakest into water,
there to struggle with moans before drowning.
The strongest made it back to shore, succored by kings
of one speech and one speech alone. Everyone, everyone
was led up many towers of perfect communication
until they reached that silent golden orb in the sky
they once called by many names, but now one and the same.
When they looked down past clouds of syllables with no shame they saw their earth as
a sad source of differences now faded
into echoes of swords brandished in utter defense of words.

Alfred A. Yuson

A Villanelle for Billie Holiday

Just to imagine that I see you there
At Café Society, lilt your voice,
Singing with a gardenia on your hair—

Count Basie giving your songs the best care,
What an experience, and I would rejoice
Just to imagine that I see you there

And certainly it would be more than fair
To be around when you bring down the house
Singing with a gardenia on your hair

Singing such as "Strange Fruit" with such a rare
Nuance as would make me resort to lies
Just to imagine that I see you there

And is that Louis Armstrong in a chair?
And then you turn slowly towards him, oh yes.
Singing with a gardenia on your hair.

And thank you, Lady Day, you've made me dare
Write this, and with eyes closed lounge on the chaise
Just to imagine that I see you there
Singing with a gardenia on your hair

Simeon Dumdum Jr.

Whereas

He has forgotten the spot where they first met.

He has forgotten the spot.

He has forgotten
                    what is between tragedy
& a trampoline.

He has forgotten how his speech limits him,
how he feels no emotion
                              he has no names for.
He has forgotten how the world ends.

He has forgotten the world ends where punctuation begins.

He has forgotten how to forget;
& as if forgetting for the first time,
                                        he writes.
Where there is speech: breakdown.
- A flat-iron in her chest.
- A cup of water in the groin.
- Her navel a dry keyhole.

Where neither heart nor home exists, he is perfect.
The world assumes he is wordless.

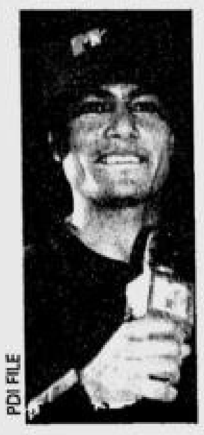
(Perfection is in the mouth.)

Angelo V. Suárez

Erratum: The bottom photograph in the story "The Champion's Mother Refused to Let Fate Knock Her Out" (SIM, Feb. 5, 2006) was taken by Paul Bernaldez. SIM regrets the omission.

Derek

...from page 1



PDI FILE

HEARD a good love story lately? The romance between Remedios Paggao and Derek Arnold Ramsay began many years ago in England, where the Filipina Remedios managed a hotel on the block where British policeman Derek Arnold did his rounds.

Despite numerous and wealthy suitors, Remedios fell for the humble bobby, who was likewise smitten as he watched her walk in and out of the hotel and limousines. In time, the two wed, raised a family and settled down here, where Derek Arnold founded an electronic security business from scratch. Today, his guardless and gunless Guard-All Security Systems provides state-of-the-art equipment to such high-profile institutions as the World Trade Center, Ayala Stock Exchange and Manila's slew of embassies. Meanwhile, Remedios and Derek Arnold live happily in their Tagaytay home.

Camera-shy: "If it happens, it happens." At right, as an MTV VJ

As luck would have it, a love story of this caliber continues to elude Derek Arthur Ramsay, the eldest of the couple's two boys and second of five kids. It's a week before Valentine's, and the 28-year-old commercial model, host and actor hasn't a date or plans, even though he's been romantically linked with actress Angelika de la Cruz and rumored to be cozy with another star, Jeni Hernandez.

Tall, lanky, dusky

Still, the likelihood of this tall, lanky and dusky-skinned bachelor being alone on the 14th is nil. He can do as he did last year and have dinner and drinks in a fancy hotel with 15 of his Ultimate Frisbee teammates. Or he can get together with the lady he spent Valentine's Day with two years ago. "My ex-girlfriend is in town, so I might go out with her to maintain the friendship," he says. "I don't want to have enemies."

Even the prospect of staying at home isn't such a bad idea, as "there is always someone there"—including his Siberian Husky, Damien. "It's nice to have someone around," concedes Ramsay, who was in a three-year relationship, and whose love life right now is mostly of the long-distance kind. "But I don't look for it. If it happens, it happens."

Acting, not surprisingly, just happened for the English-born, UK- and US-educated Ramsay, who was discovered some 10 years ago when a talent scout walked up to him while he and his dad were at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. "I said no because I was camera-shy," recalls Ramsay, who was on vacation from school in England. "But my dad said, 'Oh, do it.'" He then developed a routine, shuttling between school abroad and shoots here. Soon, he was getting everybody's attention as a commercial model (for Close-Up, Oxygen, Addict Mobile, San Miguel Beer) and host (of the showbizy "ETK" and MTV, where he won the VJ Hunt in 2001 and is currently the star of the dating show "Get Hitched").

Happy with the fast work and money, he rejected all offers to act, including one from Kris Aquino, who asked him on national TV if he would he her leading man in a forthcoming big screen comedy. "I said no. So when they made me join 'Game K N *Ba*?,' she introduced me as the guy who turned her down. Next thing I know we're appearing together in the San Miguel Beer ad!" he says with a laugh.

Fallen angel

He also declined the role of the fallen angel Kahimu on the ABS-CBN fantaserye *"Ang Panday,"* but the network's persistent calls and his desire to do something more challenging than a commercial saw him finally give in. And what a challenge it was: Ramsay, who dons a costume a la X-Men's Wolverine, went through wushu training and acting workshops to play the bitter gladiator who joins forces with Panday (Jericho Rosales) in the blacksmith's search for his wife Eden (Heart Evangelista) held captive by the evil Lizardo (Victor Neri).

That, however, was the easy part. For the first-time actor, if it wasn't the waiting in between shoots, it was shooting his fight scenes with little sleep that proved taxing. "I also missed my bed and my bathroom," says Ramsay with a laugh, after his scenes were shot in Manila, Laguna, Bohol, Cavite and Bulacan. "And I missed my friends and playing sports, which I couldn't do for two months."

In any case, he's already agreed to appear in another fantaserye, this time as a mentor to kids. "They say it's going to be more difficult because children are involved. But you know what? After *'Panday'* and Bohol, I don't think anything could be harder."

He'd also like to try his hand at drama and comedy, but more out of curiosity than to attract a wider audience. The *masa* may already know who he is (they pronounce his name "Direk"), but if he had to choose, Ramsay would pick freedom over fame any day.

"I love the fact that I can just take off any time," says Ramsay, who traveled around Europe and Africa for two months on a whim after the SMB ad, devoted the entire Christmas season to his family when his *"Panday"* shoot wrapped up, and just came back from an unplanned weekend in Baguio.

"I'm not the type who won't finish what I committed to do; if I'm scheduled for work I'll do it. But I won't sign a contract with anyone saying that they own me, so I have to do this and that."

Jock appeal: Ramsay in an early shoot

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

His true love

Besides, an actor's hectic life will leave him little time to pursue his true love—sports. Ultimate Frisbee is the passion of the moment for Ramsay, who played rugby, cricket and water polo in England, was on the national soccer team and Toyota Otis Letran for two PBL seasons, and got his tan from a round of golf the day before his interview.

As a member of the Philippine Team, he helped beat other Asian countries in an international Ultimate Frisbee tournament held three months ago at the Manila Polo Club. Come November, the team hopes to fare just as well when it competes in the world championship in Australia.

Ramsay, who coaches an award-winning team called the Disk Devils and likes the idea of being able to teach sports to kids someday, is known in the circuit as "*Kabayo*." "The first time I played, I couldn't throw a disk," he relates sheepishly. "So they said, 'Derek, fetch!' Then they'd throw the disk to the end zone and I'd run and catch it."

All that physical activity has given him a nicely buff body, which he has displayed many times over on giant highway billboards and glossy magazines. Personally, we haven't seen it, as he politely requested to keep his clothes on for the cover shoot. "In my last four shoots, I was topless. I'd also like to be known as somebody who wears a shirt, too," chuckles Ramsay, who ironically never wore one when he modeled for the clothing brand Oxygen.

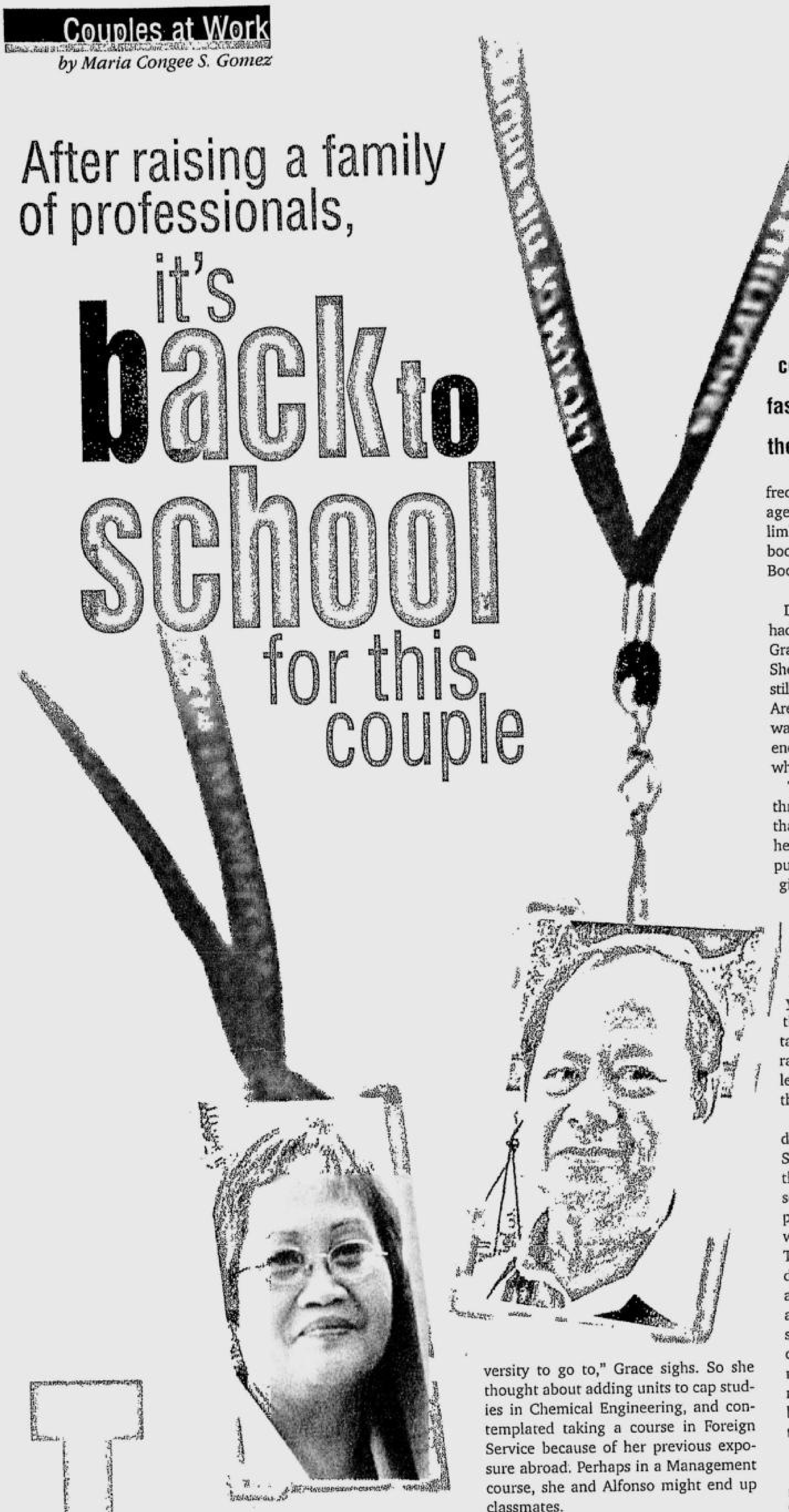
Fair enough. After this interview, it's clear that Ramsay's most attractive features are not his chiseled chest or washboard abs. "People look at me and immediately they think I'm *antipatiko* (a snob) and *masungit* (ill-tempered). But I'm the complete opposite," he says. "I'm approachable and very easy to talk to. I'm simple, easy-going and I'm a good listener; I tend to make people's problems my own. I'm also a very family-oriented guy. And I have a lot of patience, but I have to admit, I have a temper. But I'm not out to hurt anyone," he assures. "So I get mad, and you say sorry, I get sucked in right away."

Couples at Work

by Maria Congee S. Gomez

After raising a family of professionals, it's back to school for this couple

After living in 46 war zones, Alfonso and Grace Austria decided to earn their college degrees the old-fashioned way—even if they are both in their sixties



THE books sprawled on the dining table bear titles like the Oxford Dictionary, Webster's, *"Panitikan ng Pilipino"* and a few psychology reference titles. A stack of diplomatic passports are at the other end, with albums of IDs on another.

Sixty-two-year-old Alfonso Austria collects United Nations memorabilia, displayed in their Bagtikan, Makati home. Wife Grace looks back on all these with fondness. They have lived for more than two decades in 46 war and demilitarized zones, where Alfonso held positions as a radio communications technician and a staff member of the United Nations Peacekeeping Group, a unit under the Security Council. He even supervised construction of 200-foot high communication towers.

Grace said it was she who actually applied for the UN post, but pregnant with their fourth child, she passed the opportunity on to Alfonso. The UN stint opened opportunities for the family. Apart from the attractive work package Alfonso was entitled to, their daughters were able to attend American-run international schools. "It was a productive life away from home. I was a full-time housewife. I stayed behind to attend to our domestic affairs. I supervised the studies of the children. Alfonso came home only on weekends, but he put food on the table for all of us," Grace says.

Old age together

When all four daughters had grown up and had started looking outward for college studies, the Austria couple buckled down and discussed spending their old age together. Alfonso was certain; he wanted to go back to school. Grace was clueless; she could not specify what she wanted.

But one thing was definite—school wasn't her cup of tea.

"I knew school would be difficult for us at this stage. I don't know a course that fits our needs, and which university to go to," Grace sighs. So she thought about adding units to cap studies in Chemical Engineering, and contemplated taking a course in Foreign Service because of her previous exposure abroad. Perhaps in a Management course, she and Alfonso might end up classmates.

"Considering my age, I doubt very much if a company would be interested in hiring me. The pressure of studies is too much to think of, and the opportunities for us are no longer good," she adds.

But Grace was convinced that she should give studies a try. She considered becoming a professional counselor someday, as she loved listening to other people's woes. She's the type who offers a shoulder to cry on, who goes out of her way for people in their darkest moments. She chose a course in BS Psychology.

Next thing the Austria couple knew, they were on their way to the Lyceum of the Philippines. Grace knew it from her Mapua days. "We approached the registrar's head, Tess Pilapil, to discuss our plans. She went over the requirements, and convinced us to give school a shot." "The meeting was very warm," describes Alfonso. "Grace instantly liked the programs, and we honestly felt at home in the campus."

Alfonso decided to pursue BS Management because he wanted to manage his own school someday. Grace pushed through with BS Psychology because she wanted to be a professional counselor.

The back-to-school news was the big thing among the couple's kith and kin. The Texas- and Connecticut-based Austria daughters jumped for joy. They threw their all-out support behind their parents. Each started sending books to the Philippines. The e-mails became regular. The long distance calls became frequent, replete with words of encouragement. On the home front, the two limbered up with the aid of a refresher book Alfonso had found in National Book Store.

New chapter

Definitely, a new chapter in their lives had begun. On the opening day of school, Grace waded through curious onlookers. She overheard one saying, "Why are they still in school? What are they doing here? Aren't they too old for this stuff?" There was a group that followed them to the end of the hallway, making sure that what had passed before them was real.

The university's seamstress blinked thrice at Grace, grappling with the idea that she was a student, as she measured her for the school uniform. "The campus is an eclectic mix of young boys and girls. Some looked serious, others simply whiled away time, and a few listless ones were simply standing by," Grace observes.

Alfonso frowned at the general bad behavior, however. "Majority of our young classmates are wild, so noisy in the classroom, and the boys are always talking about their girlfriends. The rampant texting interrupts the flow of lectures so much that I wonder where their parents are."

The nurturing ways of Grace has endeared her to her young classmates. She reminds them to be respectful of their parents. She knew she and Alfonso would have a widely different viewpoint from their younger classmates, which they'd rather keep to themselves. The disparity between the two worlds did not prevent the couple from associating with the young, however. For example, Grace enjoys chatting with her seatmate, Aileen Cusi. Alfonso relishes conversations with his Japanese classmate, Hilyn. But if there's one thing that matters to both, it's not a peer group, but the idea of time fast running out on them.

No difference

That they're called "Daddy" or "Mommy" by classmates, and "Sir" or "Madam" by professors made no difference. They are bound by rules and regulations. Now in their second year of college, they report to school four times a week, write their term papers, and are learning to download information from the Internet. Alfonso proudly describes their morning rituals: "We are up by 5 a.m., leave the house an hour later, and as soon as I put my hands on the steering wheel, Grace presses the beads of the holy rosary to start our morning prayers." "Each day is God's plan for us," Grace says.

Alfonso and Grace are quickly adapting to the pressures of studies. Alfonso has already confided to Grace some of the effects of stress on him, being hypertensive, diabetic, and saddled with high cholesterol. "If taking the subject again is necessary to pass, so be it; I'd rather pursue my studies at a leisurely pace, or the whole thing would totally stress me out," he says.

But it's a different story with Grace, who recounts how she sulked about the 74 raw score points she got from a major subject. She also once submitted a test paper full of erasures, to the utter dismay of the professor. *"Naiinis talaga ako* (I got so frustrated)," she says, wiping sweat off her face. "Worse, I am at a loss when questions are paraphrased; they become tricky. I really feel I have to improve if I want to stay on." By the couple's own admission, they did well in recitations but kept getting low scores in written exams. "The problem begins when we are asked to write down our thoughts, and we get mentally blocked. We need extra effort."

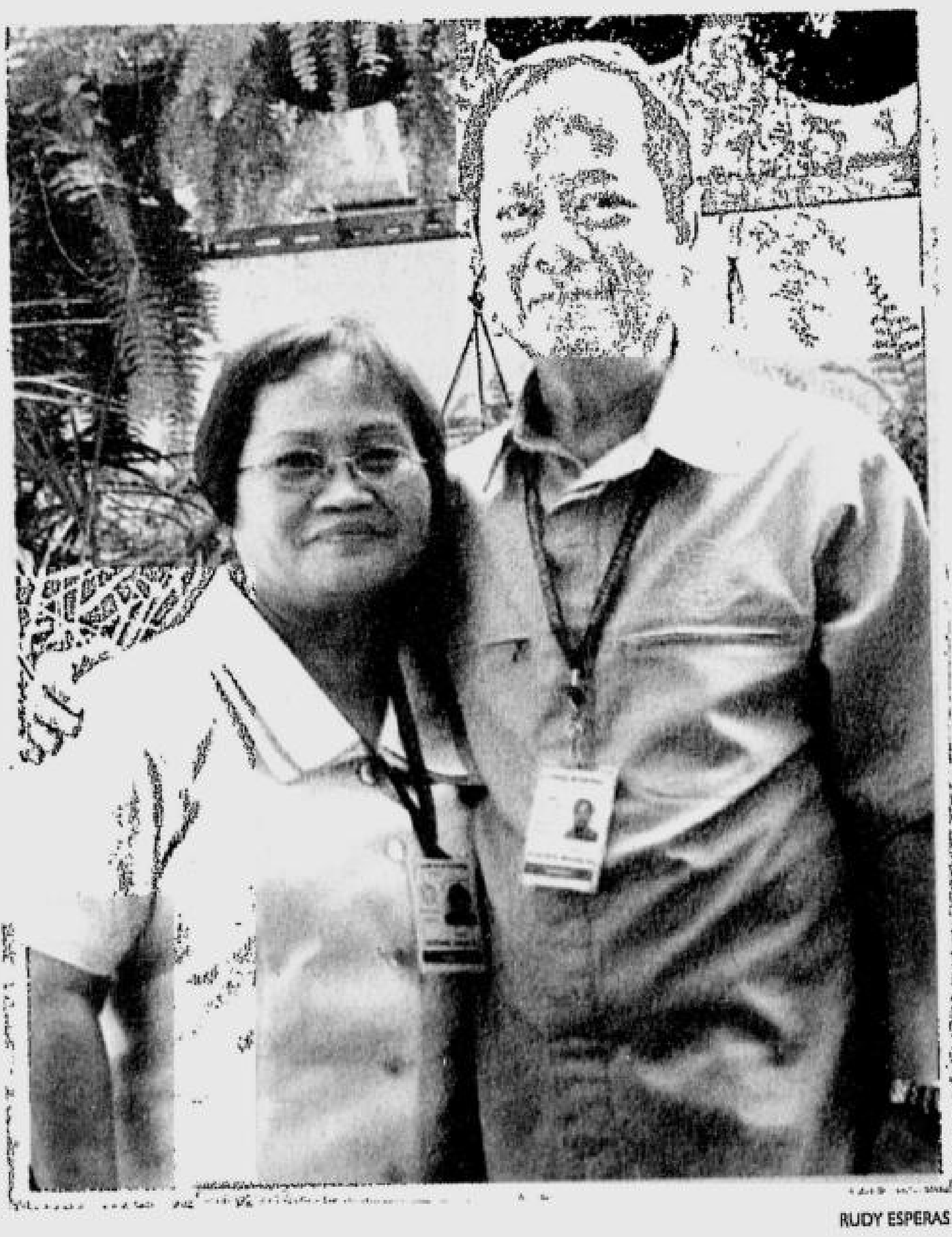
By choice, Grace pops memory pills thrice a day, especially during exam week. Alfonso does not.

If school opened a new dimension in their lives, the Austria couple looks at it as a lifelong commitment. "We want to live for a purpose. We want to contribute to the community where we live, and we look forward to being of service," Grace says. She thinks of this purpose constantly, knowing counseling is a life mission. Alfonso's own school, however, will be on the outskirts of Manila. His plans already include providing scholarships, housing and livelihood to deserving students.

Joint effort

"We derive so much happiness from seeing how far we have gone. Alfonso and I have had different achievements, but it has always been a joint effort when making family decisions, with the guidance of God." The daughters, now gainfully employed, share their parents' passion for responsible lifestyles. Ana Brenda is a lymphoma research supervisor, Shiela is an anaesthetist, Myra is a teacher and Helainne, a practicing dentist. All are working in the United States

Ask Alfonso and Grace about earning more wealth, and Grace says they don't think much about it; school brings more mundane concerns. "We don't believe age limits a person's purpose in life. But everything has to succeed by His plans, and not ours. These days, Alfonso and I just pray together for true happiness, here and in the afterlife." Q

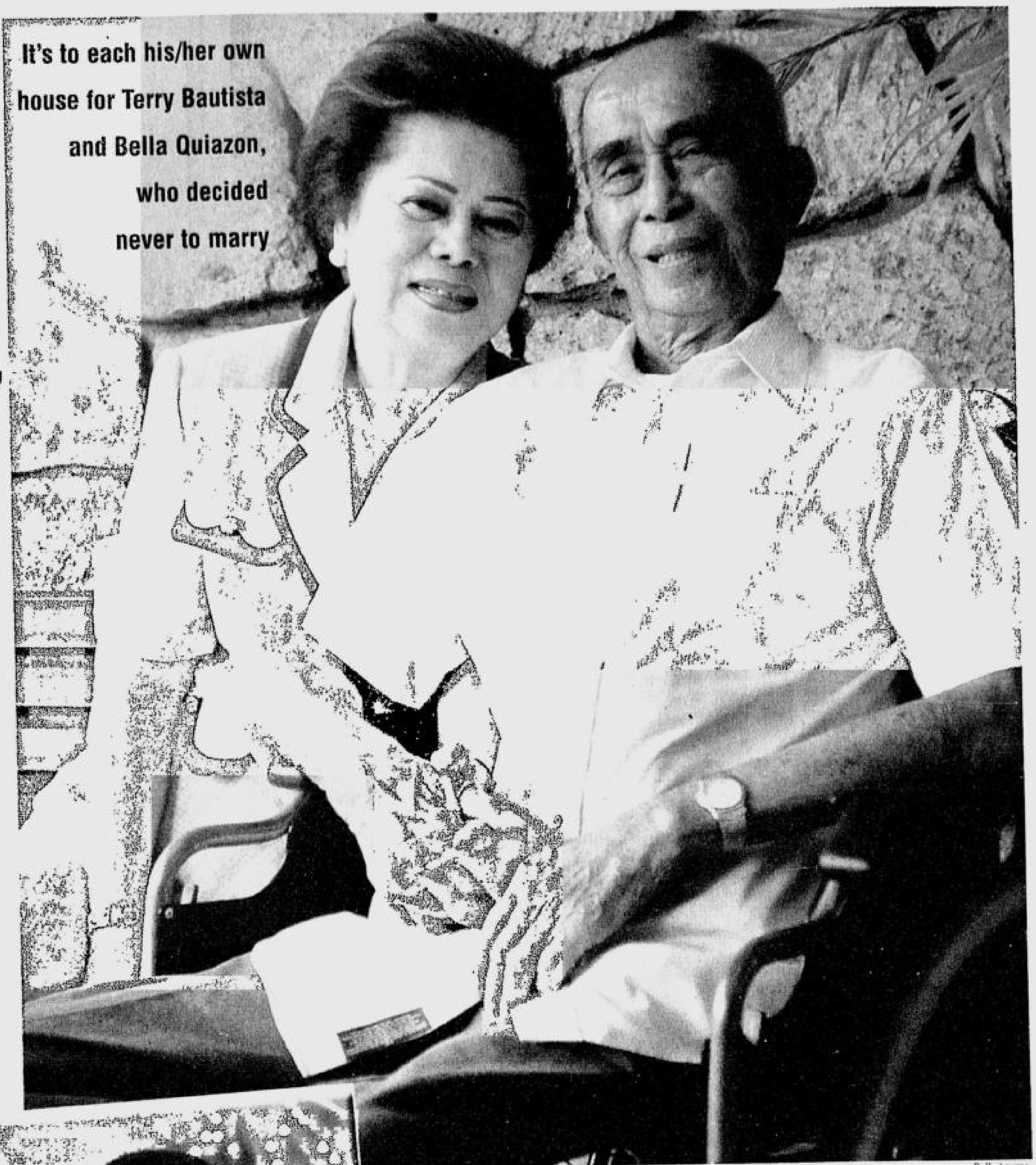


RUDY ESPERAS

Twists of Fate

by Alya B. Honasan

Sweethearts for last 14 years are like husband and wife, but live separate lives


It's to each his/her own house for Terry Bautista and Bella Quiazon, who decided never to marry

Rally Lerma

THIS is, without a doubt, a love story. But it's an unusual love story because it's about two people who got a second chance at love, and who found something entirely new without giving up what they had become. Thus, there was hardly any reason for conflict or irritation or selfishness. And in seeing the best of each other and sharing the happiest of moments, love could only bloom, without becoming stunted in its growth or falling by the wayside, a casualty of the often bitter battle between men and women.

For Terry Bautista, 87, and Bella Quiazon, 76, love has been sweet, because they can share it while still living separate lives.

Partners: At the wedding of Terry's oldest grandchild in 2003

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

They had their first love many years ago. Demetrio "Terry" Bautista was chairman of the board and president of Fil-American Hardware Co. Inc., a successful businessman who started his enterprise in 1955, in a field dominated by Filipino-Chinese operations. He had studied at the Far Eastern University and married a townmate from Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija, Leonila "Nelly" Abesamis. The couple had five children, including daughter Marilou Garcia-Morera, who joined us for this interview to help jog Dad's memory.

Since last year, Terry has been suffering from a kidney problem, and has been wheelchair-bound and undergoing dialysis three times a week.

Partner in life

Nelly had died of a cerebral hemorrhage from a stroke in 1978, when Terry was not yet 60. "I was newly married then," Marilou recalls. After a couple of years of mourning, Terry slowly began socializing again, and even dating. In fact, he had had a steady date for a few years when he met the second woman who would become his virtual, if not literal, partner in life.

It was 1992. Terry, then 76, was part of a regular walking group that did the rounds of Greenhills Shopping Center two or three mornings a week; the rest of the days, this active senior citizen played golf. Also in the same walking group was the pert widow Bella Quiazon, whose husband, Army General Alfredo Quiazon, had died when Bella was only 57. When she and Terry met, she was 62.

"We talked about a lot of common friends, because we were townmates," recalls Bella, who also came from Nueva Ecija; she had gone to school at St. Mary's College in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. After her marriage, Bella had remained a housewife, and the couple also raised five children, until Alfredo succumbed to bone cancer.

"I hardly even went out for two years after," Bella recalls. "But I didn't close my door, because I knew I was pretty," she says with a laugh. Seriously, she remembers praying to God for a good match if she should ever find another, as her late husband had been a kind man. "And then, he came along," she says, glancing lovingly at Terry.

Terry admits he had dated other women, and has always had an eye for pretty females. But the main thing that drew him to Bella, he says over and over, is that she is "very understanding." The two first went with another couple on a foursome one evening, to a Korean restaurant in Virra Mall, Bella recalls, and then off to Nina's Papagayo for some dancing. "He really liked to dance," Bella says of Terry. "We share the same likes and dislikes," Terry seconds.

Another date followed, and then more solo dates. Both admit it didn't take long for the attraction to happen. Terry likes to talk about how Bella sent him flowers. "I accepted them, of course, and I called her right after." But Bella also remembers how Terry first sent her 20 dozen roses for her birthday. In fact, it was Bella's birthday party that year they met, in June, which Terry considers the beginning of their official couple-hood.

"That was when I met all of her children and her friends. They were very accepting and broad-minded." Their children even knew each other.

Soon after, Terry invited Bella to join him on a month-long trip to the United States, highlighted by a Caribbean cruise. Terry simply informed his children, who didn't mind; Bella asked her children's permission. "I wouldn't have joined him *naman* if I didn't like him already," Bella says. "But when my son called me from the States, and said, 'Mom, I hear you're coming here,' I said, 'Yes, but I have a problem—I'll be with Mr. Bautista.' "

Never fighting

Her son's answer erased all her fears, however. "Mom, you're old enough to do what you want. Besides, how will you get to know a person if you don't spend time with him?"

That began a 14-year relationship in which, Bella swears, they have never quarreled or fought. "When he's in a bad mood, I just keep quiet," she says. "I just don't contradict anything she says," Terry counters. "We're both very patient and understanding with each other."

They decided never to marry, mainly because Terry had promised his late wife that he wouldn't. Bella didn't make any such promise, but she doesn't mind; she'll never leave Terry just because of that, she assures. Sometimes, though, when she's identified as Mrs. Bautista, she just nods. "Just to keep a long story short. And also to keep people from getting malicious thoughts."

Do such thoughts bother them? "No, we don't care," Bella is adamant. "We have nothing to hide." "That's what I like about her," Terry says. "She never, ever hides anything." He proudly introduces Bella to people as his sweetheart—that's what they call each other.

The interesting part is, the subject of living together never came up, either. Terry lives in his Greenhills home, with his youngest daughter Tess and her family; Bella lives in Cubao, with her son and his family. Still, Bella has sent food to Terry every day, without fail, for the last 15 years. "When my dad still went to his office in Cubao, which was near *Tita* Bella's house, she would send lunch everyday for all of us in the office," Marilou says, marveling. And Bella is apparently a fabulous cook. "If I don't do it *kasi*, I feel bad. I like to take care of people."

Every night, Terry calls to say good night, and the two talk about what he wants to eat the next day before exchanging I love you's.

Date day

Saturday is date day for the couple. That means Mass in the late afternoon, dinner and a show, before Terry brings Bella home to Cubao. That could be an earlier evening if he has a golf game the next day, which Bella never objects to. "He has his own activities, and I have mine. I still walk, and I play mahjong with my friends once in a while."

Immaculately coiffed, Bella says she got used to being a military officer's wife, always ready and dressed for an occasion, so she visits the beauty parlor regularly.

When the two travel, though, they stay together—"making *bahay-bahayan*" (playing house), as Marilou says with a laugh. "I cook for him, whatever he wants," Bella says. "And then we go around."

The two share a love for New York City, where they watch Broadway musicals every night and go shopping in fine stores like Saks Fifth Avenue. While Terry foots the bill for the trip, Bella makes sure she has her own spending money.

Their favorite little gifts for each other? Fragrances. "Every time we visit a new place, we make sure to visit the most popular store, and buy some perfume. She likes the popular brands," Terry says. He has also gifted Bella with jewelry, which she proudly wears.

Today, things are a little slower for the couple. The annual trip had to be cancelled last year because of Terry's bad health, but the daily food offerings continue; Bella brings some hot, delicious *pansit* for this interview and insists that we sample it. "*Tita* Bella spoils you," Marilou tells her father. "No," he counters, but the smile on his face says that he actually agrees.

Sickness and health

Terry sometimes nods off to sleep or fumbles his words, but is quick to squeeze Bella's manicured fingers in his hand, not letting go, an obvious habit. "As soon as we enter the car, he's already holding my hand," Bella recalls. Do they kiss in public? "A lot. We do our thing, and we don't care what other people say." For his part, Terry insists on having Bella around when he's having his dialysis, caressing his hands or popping popcorn into his mouth.

One wonders if Bella isn't tired of dealing with illness; after all, she did lose her husband to a dreaded disease. "No," she says emphatically. "Caring for someone comes naturally to me. And I do consider him my husband now, even if we're not married. As they say, in sickness and in health."

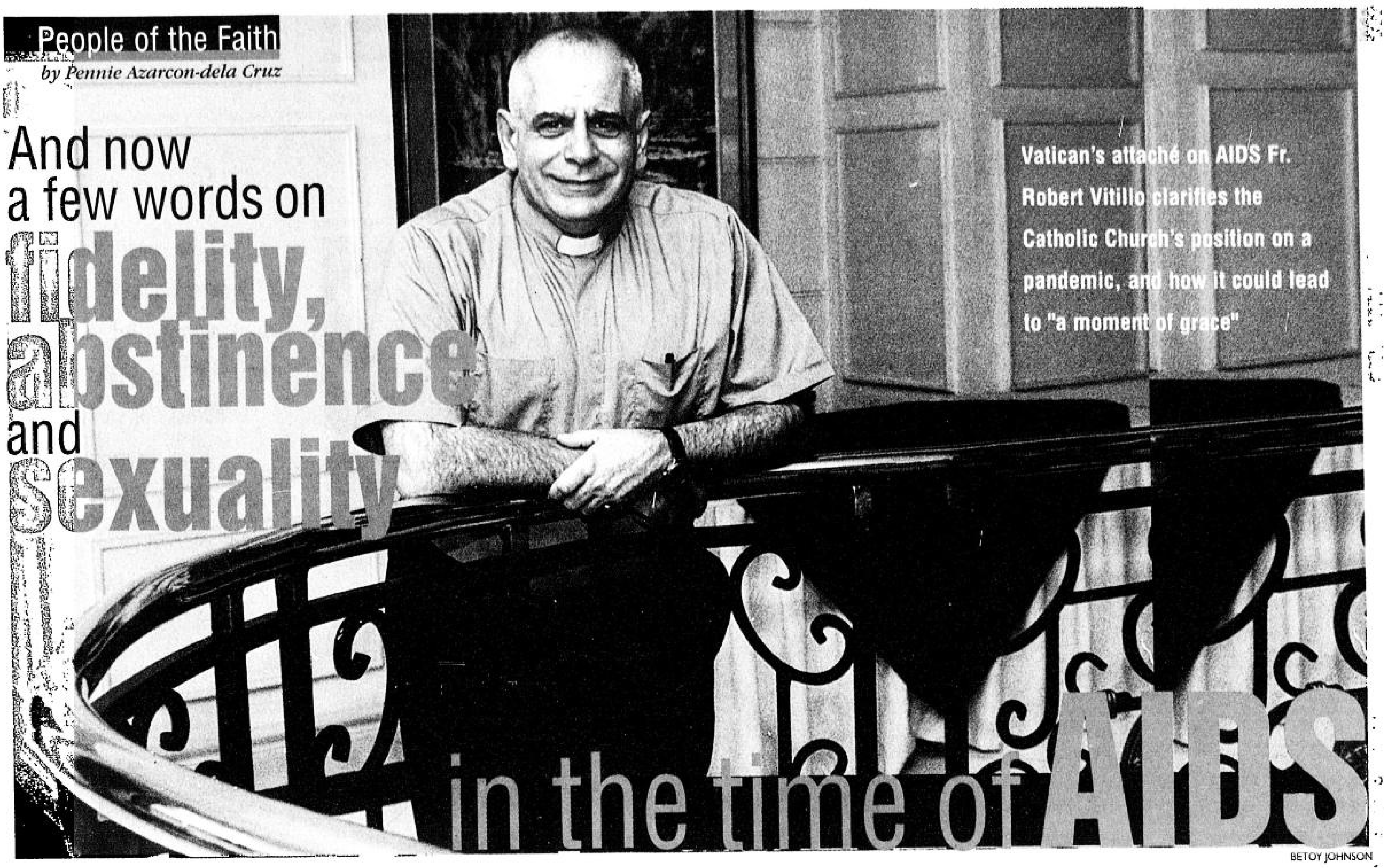
Both Terry and Bella agree that having time for themselves has kept the relationship going smoothly. "You have to share the same likes and dislikes. You have to enjoy things together, and enjoy the company of each other's friends and family," Terry advises. For Bella, it boils down to the basics. "We communicate a lot. We are considerate of each other. But of course, more than anything, there is love."

We are family: Bella and Terry with their respective children

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

People of the Faith

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz



And now a few words on fidelity, abstinence and sexuality in the time of AIDS

Vatican's attaché on AIDS Fr. Robert Vitillo clarifies the Catholic Church's position on a pandemic, and how it could lead to "a moment of grace"

BETOY JOHNSON

HE last time he was in Uganda in June 2005, Fr. Robert J. Vitillo remembers sensing something different. There was the same dust-choked roads, the same rundown houses, the same broad waves and smiles of children. But there was something unusual he could not quite pin down. Then it hit him.

Gone from the roads and public markets was the long line of coffins for sale. For some time, the coffins were a macabre symbol of how AIDS had decimated this small African country and how the pandemic has become the scourge of the times, says Fr. Vitillo, the Vatican's attaché on AIDS and health-related issues at the United Nations offices in Geneva, Switzerland.

Vitillo, 59, was in town last week on invitation by UNAIDS for a forum with Catholic leaders "to celebrate the good works of the Church with regards to AIDS, and find new ways to strengthen its global response to the disease beyond its perceived mission of health care, social services and education."

Since 1987, the reverend has been engaged in the education of Church leaders and the development of Church-based programs in response to the AIDS pandemic in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and North America.

Still faithful

The forum titled, "The Catholic Church's response to HIV and AIDS: Action in Charity and Justice," hopes "to update Church people on what's going on and what the church is doing," says this Special Advisor on HIV and AIDS of Caritas Internationalis. He adds, "It is very possible for Church leaders to work on this issue in partnership with the UN and other agencies, and still be faithful to Catholic teachings."

Expectedly however, Vitillo found himself clarifying the Catholic Church's position on the use of condoms on AIDS prevention.

"The Church has nothing against sexuality," he says, "but it believes that sexuality should be expressed only within marriage. The Church prescribes abstinence before marriage and mutually faithful sexual relations within marriage."

At the same time, says this priest from New Jersey, the bishops acknowledge that some people might not be able to abide by the church teachings on sexual abstinence and marital fidelity. Not wishing to do harm to others, these people might want to take preventive measures, "but that is their decision based on their conscience, not the bishops,' " he stresses.

Vitillo adds that in relationships where couples decide to have sexual relations despite one of them being HIV positive, the couple should continue to take steps to reduce risks, "while the Church's role is to talk to these couples, to guide them and help them develop the right conscience to decide what to do."

The forum, he says, does not change that teaching, "but the Church also acknowledges that not everybody can live up to its teachings (on sexuality), so we must grow in forgiveness while helping people grow in their faith."

Rather than go into debates about technical and mechanical means to prevent the spread of HIV, Vitillo says we must instead look into behavioral change as the key to AIDS prevention.

He notes: "People tend to blame the increase in the number of HIV cases on the Church's ban on condom use, but it is people's individual behavior that's to blame." People, he adds, are more open to starting sexual activities later and reducing the number of one's sexual partners than to using condoms "for cultural or personal reasons."

But more than the controversy surrounding condom use, the bigger challenge that AIDS workers and advocates face is poverty, says Vitillo. "People become more vulnerable to HIV/AIDs because of poverty," he notes. "Take the Philippines, where workers take overseas jobs to survive. They are separated from family, abused sexually and have illicit sexual relationships when they get lonely. Given such conditions, how long would it take before they contract the virus?"

Structural injustice

As of July 2005, according to the Health department, the Philippines has registered 2,314 cases of HIV infections, 34 percent of whom are OFWs and 36 percent seafarers. Sexual intercourse was cited as the mode of transmission in 85 percent of the cases.

The reverend also scores the "structural injustice" that has made life-saving medication inaccessible to those who need it most. "The Church believes in the right to private property and to profit, but we are in an emergency situation. We must put pressure on pharmaceutical companies for them to reduce the price of anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs and to do more research on forgotten diseases in underdeveloped countries."

Vitillo's secular perspective on HIV-AIDS is not surprising. The grandson of Italian immigrants, he saw how poverty could drive people from the comfort of home and family into hostile territory.

"My father, who was into the road construction business, was one of 14 siblings," he reveals. His grandparents, he says, helped build the Italian parish because they were not accepted into the mainstream church. Having lived right next to a church in New Jersey, Vitillo felt the call to priesthood early on and left his pre-med studies in psychiatric social work for theology. The medical background would prove helpful later when he got involved in the counseling and treatment of emotionally disturbed children and in counselling troubled families.

Vitillo's work led him to Caritas, the organization for Catholic charities, where he worked in services with refugees and migrants. "I first visited the Philippines in the early '80s when I worked in Bataan with refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos," he recounts. Currently, he adds, Caritas has educational programs on HIV-AIDS in schools, information fairs during World AIDS Day, and is also involved in counseling people living with AIDS (PLWAs), providing hospice care and funding organizations that work on the issue.

More challenging

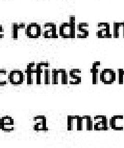
For Vitillo, working with PLWAs proved much more challenging than his previous apostolates because of the stigma and discrimination that they endure. "There's much more fear and prejudice because of the sexual overtones connected with the disease," he says. But thankfully, adds Vitillo, very few Church leaders still look at AIDS as a punishment from God.

In fact, in a pre-conference in Abuja, Nigeria in December last year, Vitillo quoted the Catholic Bishops of Uganda who saw the pandemic as "a moment of grace...when we hear the call to conversion, to turn to faithfulness to God's law regarding sex and marriage, and rediscover the value of chastity."

Hopefully, he adds, such moment would lead to "a world where HIV/AIDS will no longer be around and people would have universal access to life-saving medication." Q

Love Notes

Joe D'Mango



A dilemma of selflessness

After all the lies and betrayals, will I have the heart to love him the way he wants me to? Does he even deserve that love?

Dear Joe,

I've always prided myself in being a level-headed person. I recently passed the bar exams and landed a job with a prestigious firm in Makati. My last relationship ended two years ago and left me afraid of relationships. I went out on a few dates, but kept everything light and casual—until I met Carl.

Carl and I met at a badminton game after a friend of mine dragged me along. Carl was one of the better players, and I was completely in awe of his skill. I didn't read any meaning in the extra attention he showered on me that day. I figured, it was his personality to be just that, which really struck me as being "bolero."

An office badminton tournament came up, and I asked him to train me and my officemates. One phone call led to another. He told me he was married, but was living separately from his wife. He sought legal advice in getting an annulment. I, on the other hand, advised him to exhaust all efforts to save the relationship for the sake of their children. He said they have tried several times, but they always ended up fighting and decided it was best to live separately and in peace.

The phone calls became more frequent, and then one Friday night, after a late badminton game, I asked him to drive me home because I had injured my wrist. He first offered to let me spend the night in their house, but I politely refused. He drove me home, and I bought him dinner as a token of my thanks. Over a very late dinner, we talked and we laughed. I didn't know if it was the two bottles of beer that we drank that night, or just plain and simple attraction between two lost souls, but we found ourselves kissing each other. We spent the night together, just talking about life and holding each other close. I knew he was still married, but it didn't matter. I knew that whatever it was between us wasn't bound to last anyway, and so I shut my ears to my conscience.

One Sunday afternoon, he invited me to his house for merienda. There, I met Carl's mom, his brothers and his youngest son. His family politely welcomed me into their home, and there I saw a different side to his personality. He was a wonderful son, a caring brother and a loving dad to his son. Before I left, Carl took my hand and said that he was falling for me and asked me to be his girlfriend. The next day, I told him how I felt and agreed to be his girlfriend. Yet, I knew for a fact that, for all intents and purposes, he was still a married man, even if they were living separately.

On that same day that I agreed to be his girlfriend, fate dealt me a cruel hand.

Carl and I were supposed to have dinner that night, but he called me to say that he couldn't meet me because an aunt had had a stroke and had to be rushed to the hospital. After that day, he was always at the hospital, since there was no one to take care of his tita. I believed him, and told him that I'd be praying for his tita's recovery. It was almost a week later that I found out the truth.

I had called his house one evening, and his Mom, thinking that Carl had already told me the truth, informed me that Carl was still in the hospital, taking care of his wife. His wife, Joe, not his tita, was in the hospital. I felt so betrayed at that time, Joe. Yet I found myself making up excuses for him. I forgave him, Joe, without him even saying he was sorry for lying to me. I felt that he was going through a lot,

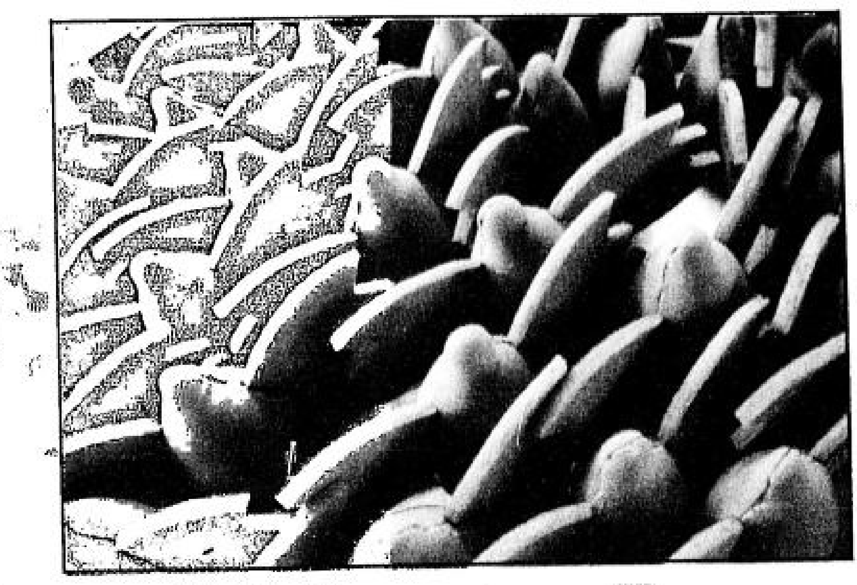
To page 7

by Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez

photographs by Keizo Kioku,

courtesy of the Organizing Committee for the Yokohama Triennale

Art: Quinto's *suso* foam sculpture



Weaving a message for women with the threads of her art

At the recent Yokohama International Triennale of Contemporary Art, artist and feminist Alma Urduja Quinto stitched her statement of hope for marginalized women and children—and got everybody involved in the creative process

UST as the Asian media was abuzz with the Philippines' brilliant showing at the 23rd SEA Games, and Pinoy Big Brother's finale was upstaging Carlene Aguilar's bid for the 55th Miss World crown, one deceptively quiet corner in a Yokohama warehouse saw the winding down of "*Ayayam*," an eventful socio-cultural proposition set up by Filipina artist Alma Urduja Quinto.

Thousands of miles more travel-worn and much more sensitized to reality than any true-to-life shows, Quinto's "*Ayayam*" essentially stood as the Philippines' voice at the recent 2005 Yokohama International Triennale of Contemporary Art.

"Ayayam's" deliberately bedraggled flamboyance is another undisguised affront to quarters that insist that art and life exist on different planets.

As with many of her recent projects, "*Ayayam*" was the handiwork of Quinto and a motley sewing crew: Filipino children survivors of domestic abuse, artist-members of the Filipino women's organization Kasibulan, Japanese artist Yoshiko Shimada, and a squad of other Japanese volunteers and visitors engaged in literally weaving together a room-size environment drawing imagery from a meshing of Filipino mythology, individual biographies, and contemporary sociology.

Months before the Triennale formally opened to the public in Yokohama, Quinto and Shimada undertook workshops for Japanese students who bravely processed their personal experiences with abuse and consequent trauma. As was the case for their Filipino counterparts, these Japanese stories physically took shape in the fiber art elements of the work, which remained truly a work in progress all through to the Triennale's closing last Dec. 18, 2005.

Bag lady look

Curiously and perhaps refreshingly so, Quinto doesn't strike you as the stereotypical angsty, torn-black-jeans and Chuck Taylor-shod artist. In truth, she immediately registers as this warm, petite woman with a hearty laugh that gamely rings out at retellings of her own mishaps, borne of her patent "bag lady" look that's had her booted out of Manila's uppity establishments. Barring such misadventures, Quinto comes across as the earnest "teacher Alma" that a few generations of child artists readily dote upon. Seemingly born to the role, this Pangasinense Philippine Studies graduate from the University of the Philippines and erstwhile Art History/Fine Arts grad student hails from a brood of nine, who can't quite make heads or tails of how their lone artist "*ate*" manages to hie off to places far and wide in the name of art, while indulging a soft spot for women and children at the margins.

Quinto's path to art took a not-so-traditional route via anthropology, and was influenced more by indigenous oral culture rather than the self-indulgent formal technical training that has produced divas in the "fine" arts. Finding out that her father was a musician, and that she counts a tailor and a folk healer among her grandfathers, seems to have put things in perspective. Making her way from journalism to communication research, and ultimately to Philippine studies, Quinto set off to work as a community worker for Foster Parents Plan International in Abra after college, striking up intimate interactions with the local Itnegs.

The next year found her taking up art education at Philippine Normal College. Her work takes on the language of craft and play in simultaneously humorous but deliberate attempts to pull Pinoys out of a social morass born of a slew of inequities.

Quinto began fully exploring the intersections of her art and advocacies five years ago, as she was engaged to do "Sew and Tell," a tapestry-in-progress for the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Spin Cycle exhibition.

The project, curated by Joselina Cruz, involved Quinto's drawing on her volunteer art therapy work with children enrolled at the New Beginnings program of CRIBS (Create Responsive Infants by Sharing). Painstakingly put together over the course of the exhibition, the collaborative patchwork was a visual translation of painful accounts of abuse alternately darned with hope in the language of stitched fabric.

Low profile

As peripatetic artist and freelance art teacher, this busybody and former head of the Philippine Art Educators Association and current president of Kasibulan has lived anything but a humdrum life. Notwithstanding her low profile, Quinto has been steadily moving across continents for the past three years both to show and speak about her work—through Cuba's Havana Biennale (2003), the Henie-Onstad Kunstsenter in Norway (2004), Melbourne and Sydney for an exhibit-conference organized by Australian feminists, and running up to Yokohama in mid-2005 and Malaysia for the "Reclaiming the Self through the Arts" project early last December.

There's nothing laid back about Quinto's advocacy and art practice. Though her projects have managed to stay sober rather than rabidly political, Quinto hardly shirks taking on charged themes such as female sexuality in "*Nang Manaog*" (for "Who Owns Women's Bodies?" in 2000) and domestic violence in "Sew and Tell" and "*Ayayam*." Quinto's work for the Yokohama Triennale picks up on her other parallel concerns: a preoccupation with process over product, an avid engagement in story-telling and interactions that her art therapy work builds on, the challenging of rigid distinctions between artist and audience, and the summoning of art's communicative power to reckon with the sublimated.

Like most blockbuster art events, the Yokohama show was a major collaboration between institutions such as The Japan Foundation, the City of Yokohama, NHK, The Asahi Shimbun and the Triennale's Organizing Committee. Yokohama picked "Art Circus: Jumping from the Ordinary" as its theme, and most artists were equal to the task of invoking the carnivalesque in the bevy of installations, performances, video works, etc.

In Quinto's specific case, "jumping" proved analogous to her re-imagining of discards, both in terms of people and material.

Soft spot

Quinto continues to nurture a soft spot for tradition and folk while actively working with contemporary visual art language, production and circulation contexts. For instance, in her now already familiar manifestations of the *babaylan* motif via performance and gender-evoking fiber-based installation work, Quinto variously summons the Mandayan color palette and weaving patterns, and appropriates the image of the Balyan doll to invoke the *diwata*'s ability to shield against sickness and distress, thus suggesting the woman-goddess's multiple roles of sentry, talisman and life-giver.

Like many feminists, artists or otherwise, Quinto continues to attempt to liberate women from demonized/harlotized images, pointing instead at how women were (and still are, in some residual sense) originally associated with spiritual awareness and ultimately, power.

Very recently, Quinto, along with Mercy Angeles and Flaudette May Datuin, put together still another collaborative undertaking called Peace Women Partners, a feminist organization made up of artists, educators and peace and human rights advocates working toward the elimination of violence and the healing of women survivors of violence through a peace education program utilizing different art forms.

As she's done in the past, Quinto and her present work seem to expressly shy away from any pretension to slickness and polish. She remains a contemplative spirit moving in an environment of flash, dazzle, and virtuosity, slowly weaving her message, one stitch at a time. Q

Advocacy: A CRIBS survivor indulges her artistic side as part of art therapy

LoveNotes

...from page 5

and the last thing he needed was me being angry at him for not telling me the truth.

He called me and explained to me that he wanted to tell me everything in person. I told him I hold no anger for him. Yes, I was hurt, but I understood and was ready to forgive him.

And then he told me everything.

He admitted that while he and his wife lived separately, there were times they still slept together. He had gotten her pregnant, and she had an abortion without his knowledge. The abortion went wrong and had resulted in a serious infection. She had been comatose since she was rushed to the hospital. I was crushed, Joe. He had lied to me again. But I couldn't put my selfish emotions first when I knew he was going through a lot. I told him I understood, and that I would be praying for him and his wife's recovery. After all, she still is the mother of his children, and they needed her.

He pleaded with me not to leave him. He felt that he was all alone, and that he drew strength from the knowledge that I was there for him, loving him. He said that once his wife's condition improved, he would focus on our relationship. I told him that he need not think of me, and that I was just there for him.

A few days later (Maundy Thursday), he asked to see me, saying he needed to get away from the hospital where his wife was confined for a while. Those days were the most agonizing days of my life, Joe.

I saw him, and my heart just broke. I tried to be strong and told him that he needed to get his affairs in order before we could be together. But once I spoke those words, I knew I couldn't leave him, not at that time, not when he needed me.

When I said those words, he looked at me and pleaded with me to stay. I couldn't think of myself at that time, Joe, not when he was in so much pain. I couldn't bear to leave him all alone. My heart ached as he asked me not to leave him, that he loved me and that he had beautiful plans for the two of us. And so I promised that I would stay with him until this storm is over. I prayed really hard for guidance.

But his wife never regained consciousness. Two days ago, she passed away.

Some would say that fate destined us to be together, since he is now free to marry again. It's a very selfish thought, a thought that has more than once entered my mind, but which I quickly brushed it off. I was able to talk to him and asked how he was holding up. He said he was sad and exhausted. I told him to be strong for the kids. He asked me how much I loved him and if I was ready to take on the role of being a wife to him and a mother to his kids.

And this is my dilemma: After all the lies and betrayals, will I have the heart to love him the way he wants me to? Does he even deserve that love? Am I willing and ready to take on the responsibilities that came with loving him?

For love, I will not care about what others think. If loving Carl means loving and being a mother to his children, then I would gladly take on the role.

But does he deserve it? I know that one day I will have to make a decision. But for now everything is still unstable, unsure. I wish someone would tell me what to do. But I know it's up to me to decide.

Yours,
Daphne

Daphne,

I have always believed that there is a reason for everything, good or bad, happy or sad, that comes into our lives. God allows all of these things to happen because he loves us even if we sometimes do not understand his ways.

Being a lawyer, Daphne, would probably make deciding difficult because, as you said, you would want to be fair to yourself, too. What you are doing is quantifying the love that you are offering and expecting to get a decent part of it back . But love should not just be about receiving something in return. It should be about loving and just loving because it makes us happy.

If you love Carl, then that should give you more than enough reason to stay. Running away from this would just mean that you haven't loved enough to stand up to what other people might say, and you didn't love enough to face the consequence of raising another man's family.

When the time comes that you will have to make a choice, remember that the real purpose of love is not getting what we want but unselfishly giving what we have. We do not put a price on the love that we give because we should give it unselfishly without any compensation. We do not love someone because of what he or she is, but because of what we are when we are with that person.

When we begin to find a reason as to why we love or do not love a person, then our love becomes bounded by a measure of what we can get or what we cannot get from that person. That love becomes just a fulfillment of, and not a commitment to, a relationship.

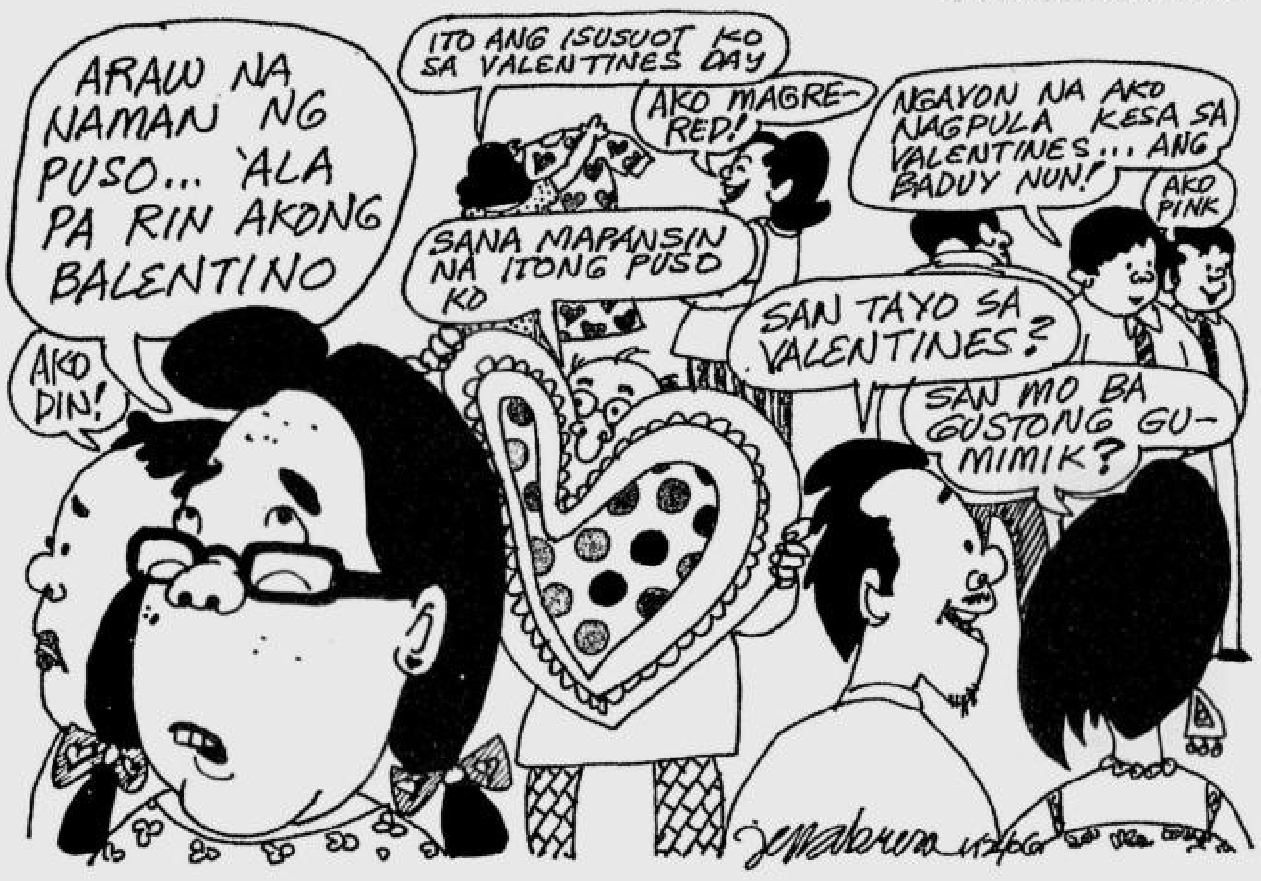
Daphne, you need not worry about making a decision now; you don't have to. We all come to crossroads in our lives, a time when we become confused about what to do, specially if it involves our emotions. You are correct; it is your faith in God that will guide you in making the right decision. Never cease in praying for His guidance, for only He knows what is best for us.

Let us always remember that love is not just about us being happy in it, but about us making others happy when we give it unselfishly and unconditionally. Q

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Pre-Valentines

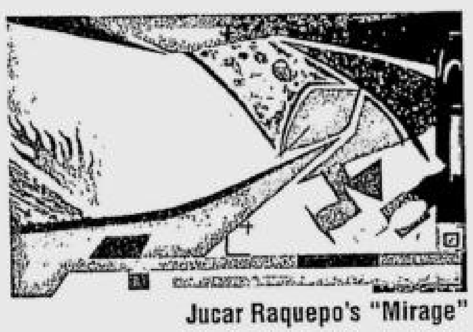

ARAW NA NAMAN NG PUSO... 'ALA PA RIN AKONG BALENTINO
AKO DIN!
ITO ANG ISUSUOT KO SA VALENTINES DAY
AKO MAGRE-RED!
SANA MAPANSIN NA ITONG PUSO KO
NGAYON NA AKO NAGPULA KESA SA VALENTINES... ANG BADUY NUN!
AKO PINK
SAN TAYO SA VALENTINES?
SAN MO BA GUSTONG GUMIMIK?

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

This Week

Art

Edsa 1: 20 Years After. An exhibit featuring photographs of the country's fight for democracy, the people involved, and the events that occurred during, before and after the Edsa revolution open for viewing from Feb. 14 to Feb. 28 at The Alcove Photo Gallery. Photos featured in the exhibit are taken from the Retrato Photo Library featuring photographs from the Willie Vicoy collection. The Alcove Photo Gallery is located at the Filipinas Heritage Library along Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati. The gallery is open Tuesdays to Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For inquiries, call 892-1801, e-mail events@filib.org.ph or visit www.flipinaslibrary.org.ph.


Jucar Raquepo's "Mirage" at Mag:net

Event Space. Aman Santos' latest work will be open for viewing from Feb. 16 to March 26 at the Pasilyo Vicente Manansala on the 2nd floor hallway of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Gallery hours is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. For inquiries, call 832-3702.

Jucar Raquepo's ninth one-man show **Abstract Thought Towards Emphatic Thought** will be open for viewing until Feb. 28 at the Mag:net Gallery Paseo. Raquepo's works will feature parallelisms between cyber kinesthetic aspirations of today and futurist tenet of modernity, mechanization, speed, movement and the glimmer of invention. Mag:net Gallery Paseo is located at the ground floor of Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Ave., cor Sedeno St., Makati City. For inquiries, call 817-7895 or e-mail magnetplus@gmail.com or magnetcafekatips@yahoo.com. You can alsovisit www.mag:netcafé.com.ph.

Jes Aznar's one-man exhibit **"*Kasal*"** will feature a series of unconventional wedding photos taken in Pila, Laguna. The show will be held at Rawfile Images, a new photo gallery owned and curated by photojournalist, Alex Baluyut. The exhibit's opening night is on Feb. 14 at 5 p.m. The gallery is located at No. 641 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City, near the Mandaluyong City Hall. The show will run until Feb. 28.

Music

Manila Pavilion's Boulvar lobby lounge presents **Hearthrob** with Lance Raymundo on Feb. 14. A comedic Valentine show calledMy Funny Valentine with the Porchop duo will also be featured at the Boulvar. For inquiries, call 526-1212

Faces of Love 2. Manna Entertainment Productions, Inc. presents Mr. Pure Energy Gary Valenciano and the Divine Diva Zsa Zsa Padilla in Faces of Love 2, a post-Valentine concert on Feb. 18 to Feb. 19 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City. For inquiries and reservations, call Ticketworld at 891-9999.

Lightningrod Corporation presents **Happy Hearts Riot** with Ramon "RJ" Jacinto and Friends with Men In Gold band on Feb. 13 at the AFP Theater, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Edsa, Quezon City. For inquiries and reservations, call Ticketworld at 891-9999.

Village People...Live in Manila! '70s disco band and gay-themed group Village People will stage a concert on Feb. 14 at the PICC Plenary Hall, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd. Pasay City. For inquiries and reservations, call Ticketworld at 891-9999or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, February 12, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
ABC
Sunday 9 PM
Iba Tayo!
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

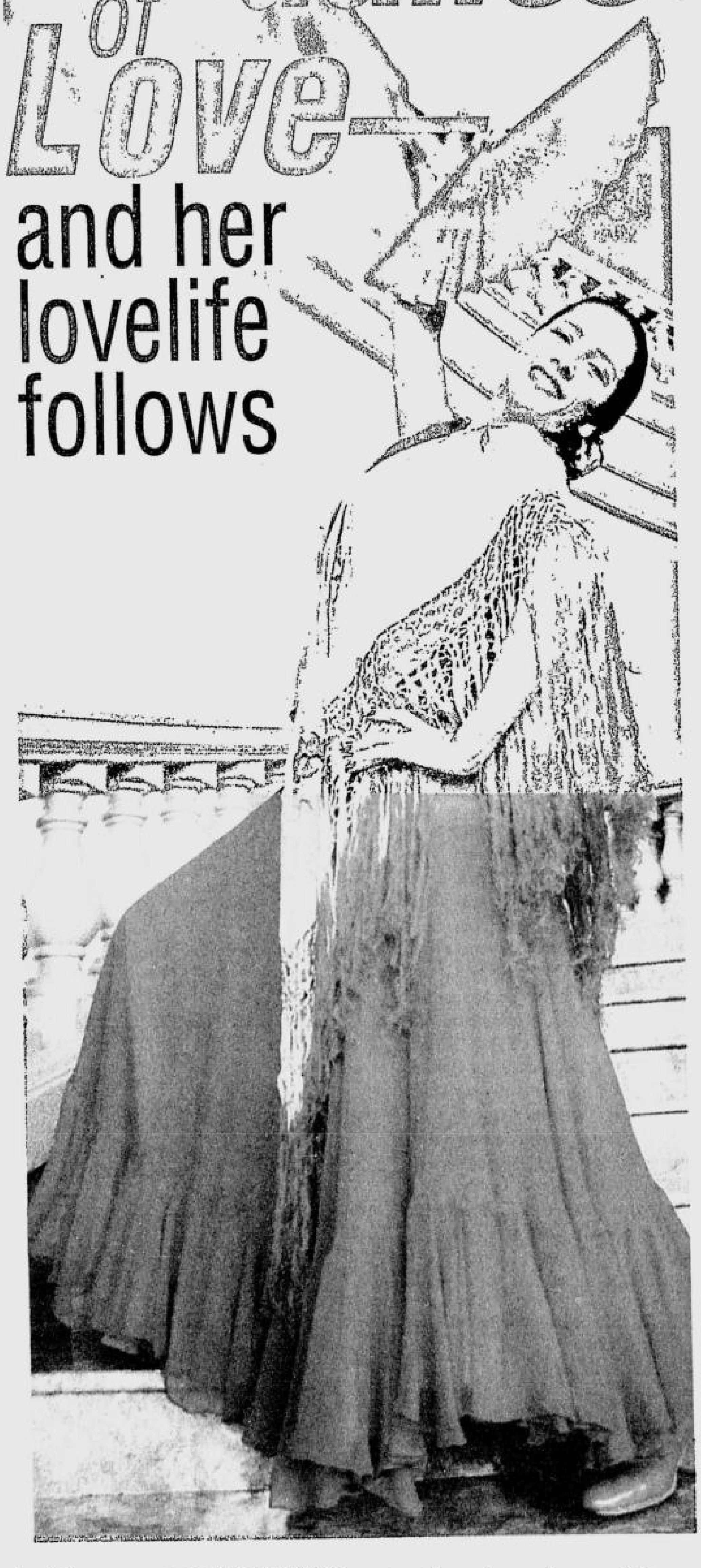
Channel	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	[illegible]	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		[illegible] The Day You Said Goodnight			
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		Pinoy Big Brother Buzz		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Search For A Star In A Million	Rated K		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sunday Family Cinema			
AXN		Enough					Samsung Sports World	WRC 2006: Sweden		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	Train Wrecks		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		CSI: NY (Season I)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Xiaolin Showdown	X-Men Evolution	Teen Titans	Superman The Animated Series	Justice League Unlimited		The Batman	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Battle B-Daman	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Xiaolin Showdown	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Harvey Birdman (11:45PM)
Cinema One				Aishite Imasu				Bcuz Of U				Premonition				Banyo Queen			
Cinemax	On Hostile Ground			City Of Angels				Bean			Don't Talk To Strangers			Into The Sun			Cradle 2 The Grave		
CNN	International Correspondent/ Quest	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	World News	Next@CNN	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Talk Asia	World News/Quest	Diplomatic License	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller Inside The Middle East	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart Global Office
Discovery Channel		Beyond Tomorrow		American Chopper		The Greatest Ever		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Hour China		Dragons A Fantasy Made Real				New Detectives	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Track & Field/ Athletics IAAF Outdoor GP 05					Table Tennis 05 Killerspin	World Snooker Tour Grand Prix				Sportscenter Asia		World Pool Masters '01		World Pool League '01		Mosconi Cup '01	
ETC		Veronica Mars		American Dreams 2		Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 2		Friends 10	The Insider Weekend	Queer Eye For Straight Guy		Project Runway		Nip/ Tuck (Back-2-Back Episodes)			
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe	Angelus (3:15PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Deep Conversation Deep Prayer	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octava Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Bookmark	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Mirror Of The Soul	Sunday Mass (SAP) Live			Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA 7	Gigstars	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Starstruck 3		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	The Nanny		Winter Solstice (3:50PM)			Winter Solstice (5:20PM)			In Love And War (7:10PM)				McBride: The Chameleon Murder			Dummy (10:35PM)		
HBO	The Stepsister (2:45PM)				Mona Lisa Smile				Kazaam			Now On The Big Screen	50 First Dates			Gothika (10:15PM)			
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		TBA				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Family Guy	Dr. Katz	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				Trigger Happy TV	Dr Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		The Importance Of Being Ernest				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	VH1 Driven		Laguna Beach	MTV Cribs	MTV Hits	Viva La Bam	Pimp My Ride	Get Hitch'd	MTV Screen	The 70's House	Spring Break	MTV Presents				Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Essential VH1	
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MYX Hit Chart				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		No Borders				Built For The Kill		Catastrophe		Seismic Seconds	Rough Trades	Megastructures		Best Of The Week		No Borders			
NBN				Paco Park Presents		Kamao Sa Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)			Inter-Aksyon Sa Bayan	Battle Royale		The Sports List	TBA		Business & Leisure		Unlimited Diving
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	Blooming Nick-Valentine's Day Special		The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Laging Naroon Ka				Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka				Sabado Nights				Beginning Today				SPO4 Antonio Cuervo Police
Qtv		Baywalk		Ginang Fashionista		Joan Of Arcadia		Ang Pinaka..		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		JAG		JAG		Navy Ncis		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN				Sure Hits	The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			NBA Jam
Solar Sports		Badminton The Yonex All England Open 05 Finals						GWS 06-2006	NBA Jam	NBA Game Jazz @ Rockets					Swatch FIVB World Tour 05 Acapulco Women's Finals				
Sports Plus			ACC Basketball Boston College @ Georgia Tech				Slipstream	Ray Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge				World's Greatest Auto Shows		Raceworld		AT&T Pebble Beach Nat'l Pro-AM Day3			
Star Movies		The Thirteenth Floor			Die Hard 2: Die Harder (4:45PM)					The Parent Trap (6:50PM)				Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story			Daylight (10:40PM)		
Star World		Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle	The Kumars At No 42	Oprah Prime Time		Koffee With Karan		Little Britain	The Office	Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23								Nginig		Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	F	[illegible] (10:15PM)	Chefs On The Go (10:45PM)		Buffy The Vampire Slayer

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

by Marge C. Enriquez
photographs by Raffy Lerma

She whirls to the dance of Love—and her lovelife follows

Flamenco dancer Clara Ramona wowed the crowd in Spain. Then she came home to the Philippines to reclaim her place, start life with a new love, and train others in this passionate dance



WITH the subtle combination of delicacy and earthiness, dancer-choreographer Clara Ramona shows off flamenco's eloquent postures, the piquancy of her fan and the silken drama of her biased skirt and fringed shawl. As she coquettishly poses for the photographer at the marble staircase of the Peninsula Manila lobby, foreign businessmen at the adjacent tables steal admiring glances. They are captivated by her curvaceousness and sensuality, and are unaware that she's pushing 50. She doesn't look it, though, thanks to classes conducted at performance level, occasional gym and ballet workouts, and frequent trips for workshops and shows abroad.

Clara Ramona describes herself as a born survivor. "I have applied that instinct and became a dancer."

Born and raised in the Philippines, Claire Ramona Batchelder studied ballet with Carmen Locsin in Davao and pursued professional training at the Boston Conservatory of Music. Since her parents couldn't afford the high cost of college dance education, Clara supported herself by taking odd jobs. One day, she was drawn by the percussive power of the footwork in a flamenco class at the Conservatory. She signed up to study under mentor Ramon delos Reyes.

Lead dancer

Blessed with innate musicality, a sharp memory, dramatic flair and strong feet, Clara was a quick study and became Ramon's lead dancer, much to the envy of his advanced students. Her love for flamenco and his discovery of a brilliant protégé blossomed into a romance despite their 20-year gap; she was 19 and he was 39 then.

"People could not believe that. But it was mutual respect," recalls Clara.

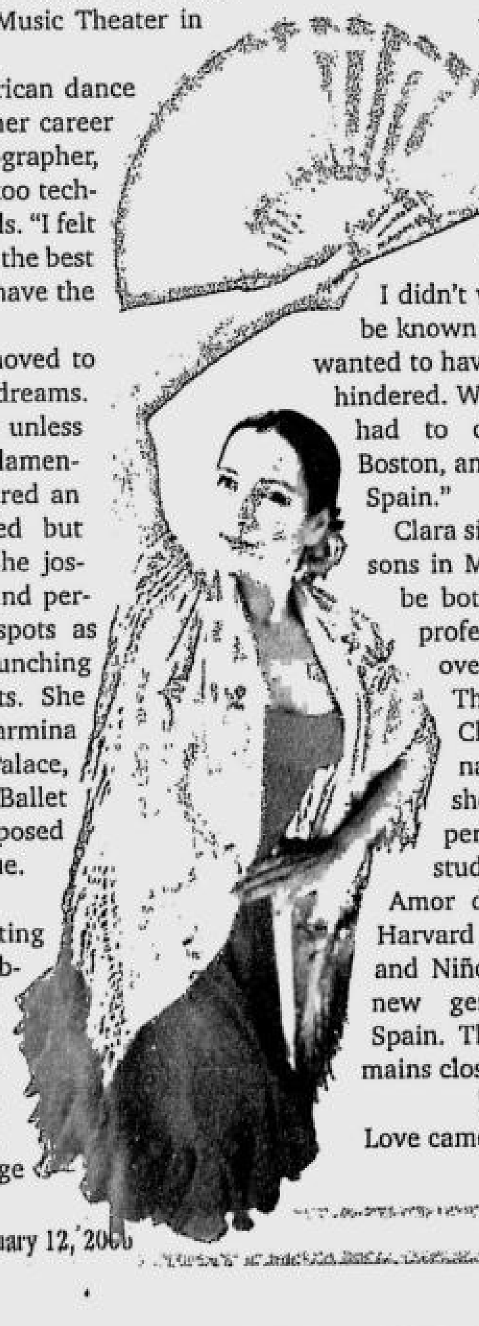
Ramon's maturity gave her a sense of security, especially in making decisions. "When you're young, you're vulnerable. You need support. He's just a very caring person. I was struggling, and doing things all on my own. So someone came around and took care of me. He was older and nurturing. That was a welcome thing for me."

After three years, Clara started teasing him about their age difference. "It didn't look right. Me, a young girl, calling him 'boyfriend.' I told him we either get married or we've got to do something."

They were married in 1979. Their sons, Isaac and Niño, literally followed their parents' footsteps, by taking up dance lessons. While her sons were growing up, Clara continued to dance ballet, jazz and modern dance, and also performed as the principal in Ramon de los Reyes Spanish Dance Theater in Boston. As a choreographer and teacher, she melded all her dance styles to create new works for American dance companies. Her first major obra was "Carmina Burana," performed at the North Shore Music Theater in Boston.

Soon Clara outgrew the American dance scene. She wanted to advance her career as a flamenco soloist and choreographer, but the dancers in Boston were too technically weak to meet her demands. "I felt I was not able to choreograph to the best of my ability, because I did not have the best dancers."

1n 1992, the whole family moved to Spain for Clara to pursue her dreams. She says, "You are a nobody unless you're in Madrid, the mecca of flamenco." At first, Clara was considered an outsider invading the enclosed but competitive flamenco world. She jostled her way to get contracts and performed in such famous nightspots as Café de Chinitas, known for launching the careers of flamenco artists. She made her mark by restaging "Carmina Burana" at the Teatro Alcala Palace, performed by her own group Ballet Español de Clara Ramona, composed of dancers with strong technique.



Getting restless

Meanwhile, Ramon was getting restless. He had a well-established career in America, and returning to Spain seemed like a dead end. "He didn't want to lose what he had built in Boston. That was his world. Going back to Madrid at his age was not the best thing. He was not a young dancer. He felt he didn't want to lose his career in Spain," recalls Clara.

"I needed to branch out. I didn't want to be a shadow or be known as the wife of Ramon. I wanted to have my own identity. I felt hindered. We separated in 1996. He had to continue his work in Boston, and I had to find myself in Spain."

Clara singlehandedly raised her sons in Madrid. "I think you can be both a good parent and a professional. It's working overtime in both," she says. The double life paid off. Clara established an international network, where she can hold classes and perform overseas. Her sons studied at the Escuela de Amor de Dios, considered the Harvard of flamenco. Isaac, 26 and Niño, 20, are touted as the new generation superstars in Spain. The whole family still remains close.

Leap of faith

Love came the second time around for Clara when a Japanese TV crew came to Madrid to film a documentary on her. They hired a local company which sent a lighting technician, Fernando Sampedro, to work with the team. Clara would have just ignored him, but he charmed her by laughing at her jokes. Since then, they've been together for seven years; Fernando is 13 years her junior.

When Clara became weary of the cutthroat competition of the flamenco world in Spain, she took a leap of faith to return to her roots. She has been teaching at the Fundacion Centro Flamenco in Makati.

"As an artist, if you stay in one place, you will suffocate. Change is always good," says Clara. "I have made my niche in Asia. I found my contacts in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Singapore and Japan all on my own. I'm constantly traveling. Discovering is what I'd like to do," she says.

As proof of his love, Fernando decided to uproot himself from Spain to follow Clara to Manila. "He is open to adventure," she says.

Of her professional life in Manila, Clara says it has been a challenge to subsist in an environment where the dance scene is dry. Enrollment in dance schools in general is erratic. Students take classes as a hobby and performances are sparse. Yet, with her incisive teaching, students learn the aesthetics of theatrical performance and are enlightened in what is authentic flamenco, which is essentially non-verbal communication between the musician and the dancer. There is no separation between the dancer and the *cante* (song).

Clara explains that within the framework of flamenco lies the dancer, singer, guitarist, *palmeros* (clappers) and *jaleistas* (back-up singers who give shouts of encouragement.) "A true flamenco artist would never say they are dancing flamenco unless there's a live musician accompanying them. If they are using recorded music, then it's simply Spanish dance or modern flamenco or 'flamenco-cized' dance," she notes.

Her persistence in teaching is slowly paying off. Clara discovered young talents in her classes who can perform with her. They will debut in Clara's show, "Flamenco Amor," on Feb. 13 and Feb. 14 at Dante Silverio's Spotlight. She hopes to spot more dancers whom she can hone into pros in her forthcoming workshop from March 6 to April 2 at the Centro Flamenco. But for those who just want to dance for recreation, Clara's classes can make students more expressive with their emotions.

Passionate lady

Asked what the difference is between living with a mature man and a younger one, Clara replies, "I thought I would be taken care of by an older man, but that's not what I wanted because I'm still young and ambitious. Now that I'm with a younger guy, I feel I'm at more liberty because I'm on top. I can do things the way I want to, if he has to follow me. If he doesn't, then we can talk about it. As an artist, I feel young and Fernando is quite mature for his age. At the same time, we might run into the same problems as I had with my husband. I've done so much, and Fernando is still discovering."

This passionate lady is hoping that, as far as their personal life is concerned, she and her man can keep their dance interesting. "Back then, I was ready to take on the world, and Ramon was ready to sit back and enjoy. I just hope Fernando and I can compromise, or keep discovering together." Q

"Flamenco Amor" will be held on Feb. 13 at 9 p.m. and Feb. 14 at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Spotlight is located at 2257 Don Chino Roces Ext., Makati City, tel. no. 815-3526. Clara Ramona will also hold an intensive flamenco and andaluzzi (bellydancing-cum-rumba) course from March 6 to April 2 at the Fundacion Centro Flamenco, 8463 Rockwell Drive (Kalayaan Ave.), Makati City. Call tel. nos. 751-2243 or 0915-4345789 for details.